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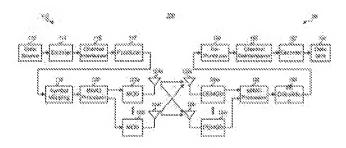
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Coding techniques for a (e.g., OFDM) communication system capable of transmitting data on a number of transmission channels at different information bit rates based on the channels' achieved SNR. A base code is used in combination with common or variable puncturing to achieve different coding rates required by transmission channels. The data (i.e., information bits) for a data transmission is encoded with the base code, and the coded bits for each channel (or group of channels with the similar transmission capabilities) are punctured to achieve the required coding rate. The coded bits may be interleaved (e.g., to combat fading and remove correlation between coded bits in each modulation symbol) prior to puncturing. The unpunctured codes bits are grouped into non-binary symbols (e.g., using Gray mapping). The modulation symbol may be preconditioned and prior to transmission.

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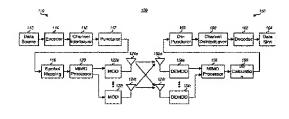
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(54) 【発明の名称】無線通信システムのための符号化方式

(57)【要約】

多数の伝送チャンネル上で、チャンネルの達成されたS NRに基づく異なる情報ビットレートでデータを伝送で きる通信システム (例えば、OFDM通信システム)の ための符号化技術。基礎符号を、共通の、または可変の パンクチャリングと組合せて使用して、伝送チャンネル によって要求される異なる符号化レートを実現する。デ ータ伝送のためのデータ(すなわち、情報ビット)を基 礎符号で符号化し、各チャンネルに対する符号化された ビット(または同等の伝送能力を備えたチャンネルのグ ループ) にパンクチャして、必要な符号化レートを達成 する。符号化されたビットは、パンクチャリングする前 に、(例えば、フェージングを抑制し、各変調記号内の 符号化されたビット間の相関関係を取り除くために)イ ンターリーブしてもよい。パンクチャされていない符号 ビットは、(例えば、グレイマッピングを使用して)非 二値記号へまとめられる。変調記号は、伝送前に、事前 調整してもよい。





【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項1】

無線通信システムにおいて、複数の伝送チャンネル上で伝送するデータを準備するための 方法であって、各伝送チャンネルは、各変調記号系列を伝送するように動作可能であり、 各伝送チャンネルによって支援される1変調記号に対する情報ビット数を判断することと

各伝送チャンネルの変調方式を識別して、1変調記号に対する判断された数の情報ビットを支援することと、

1変調記号に対する判断された数の情報ビットと、伝送チャンネルに対する識別された変調方式とに少なくとも基づいて、各伝送チャンネルの符号化レートを判断して、少なくとも2本の伝送チャンネルを異なる符号化レートと関係付けることと、

特定の符号化方式にしたがって複数の情報ビットを符号化して、複数の符号化されたビットを供給することと、

特定のパンクチャリング方式にしたがって複数の符号化されたビットをパンクチャして、 多数のパンクチャされていない符号化されたビットを複数の伝送チャンネルへ供給することと、

少なくとも2本の伝送チャンネルに対して異なる符号化レートを実現するようにパンクチャリングを調節することとが含まれる方法。

【請求項2】

無線通信システムが、複数の送信アンテナと複数の受信アンテナとを有する多重入力多重 出力 (multiple-input multiple-output, MIMO) システムである請求項1記載の方法。

【請求項3】

無線通信システムが、直交周波数分割変調(orthogonal frequency division modulation , OFDM)通信システムである請求項1記載の方法。

【請求項4】

OFD M通信システムが、複数の送信アンテナと複数の受信アンテナとを有する多重入力 多重出力(MIMO)システムとして動作する請求項3記載の方法。

【請求項5】

OFDMシステムが複数の周波数サブチャンネル上でデータを伝送するように動作し、各 伝送チャンネルがOFDMシステム内の周波数サブチャンネルの空間サブチャンネルに対 応する請求項4記載の方法。

【請求項6】

パンクチャリングが、複数の伝送チャンネルの伝送能力に基づいている請求項1記載の方法。

【請求項7】

伝送能力が、複数の伝送チャンネルから求められるチャンネル状態情報 (channel state information, CSI) から判断される請求項6記載の方法。

【請求項8】

CSI には、複数の伝送チャンネルの信号対雑音比 (signal-to-noise ratio, SNR) 情報が含まれる請求項7記載の方法。

【請求項9】

CSIには、送信アンテナから受信アンテナへの伝送特徴に関係する情報が含まれる請求項7記載の方法。

【請求項10】

CSIには、送信アンテナから受信アンテナへの伝送特徴に関係する固有モード情報が含まれる請求項7記載の方法。

【請求項11】

同等の伝送能力を有する伝送チャンネルをセグメントにまとめて、

各セグメントごとに、パンクチャリングを行なうことがさらに含まれる請求項6記載の方法。

【請求項12】

1グループの符号化されたビットを各セグメントへ割り当てて、

各セグメントに割り当てられた符号化されたビットのグループに対して、パンクチャリングを行うことがさらに含まれる請求項11記載の方法。

【請求項13】

各セグメントには、特定のSNRの範囲内のSNRを有する伝送チャンネルが含まれる請求項11記載の方法。

【請求項14】

ターボ符号を介して、符号化を達成する請求項1記載の方法。

【請求項15】

符号化により、複数の情報ビットに対する複数のテールおよびパリティビットを供給し、 複数のテールおよびパリティビットに対してパンクチャリングを行なう請求項14記載の 方法。

【請求項16】

パンクチャリングを行って、パンクチャされていないテールおよびパリティビットが複数 の情報ビット上にほぼ均等に分散される請求項14記載の方法。

【請求項17】

ターボ符号には、2つのテールおよびパリティビットを供給するように動作する2つの構成符号が含まれていて、パンクチャリングを行って、ほぼ同数のテールおよびパリティビットを、テールおよびパリティビットの2本のストリームから削除する請求項14記載の方法。

【請求項18】

nを、伝送チャンネルによって支援される1変調記号に対する情報ビット数として、各伝送チャンネルごとの符号化レートをn/(n+1)以上、n/(n+2)以下になるように選択する請求項1記載の方法。

【請求項19】

各伝送チャンネルに対する符号化レートが、1/2以上である請求項1記載の方法。

【請求項20】

畳込み符号によって符号化を達成する請求項1記載の方法。

【請求項21】

ブロック符号によって符号化を達成する請求項1記載の方法。

【請求項22】

複数の伝送チャンネルにおいて使用可能であるが、埋められていないビット位置を埋めるようにパディングビットを挿入することがさらに含まれる請求項1記載の方法。

【請求項23】

複数の伝送チャンネルにおいて、使用可能であるが、埋められていないビット位置を埋めるように、符号化されたビットの少なくとも一部を反復することがさらに含まれる請求項 1記載の方法。

【請求項24】

複数の符号化されたビットをインターリーブすることがさらに含まれる請求項1記載の方 法。

【請求項25】

インターリーブされた符号化されたビットに対して、パンクチャリングを行う請求項24 記載の方法。

【請求項26】

2つの構成符号が構成されているターボ符号によって符号化を達成し、複数の情報ビット、第1の構成符号からの複数のテールおよびパリティビット、第2の構成符号からの複数のテールおよびパリティビットを、別々にインターリーブする請求項24記載の方法。

【請求項27】

複数の伝送チャンネルに対して非二値記号を形成し、

各非二値記号には、パンクチャされていない符号化されたビットのグループが構成されていることと、

各非二値記号を各変調記号へマップすることとがさらに含まれている請求項1記載の方法

【請求項28】

複数の符号化されたビットをインターリーブして、

インターリーブされた符号化されたビットから、非二値記号を形成することがさらに含まれる請求項27記載の方法。

【請求項29】

各伝送チャンネルの変調方式が、複数の点を有する各信号配列と関係付けられ、各変調記号が、変調方式の信号配列内の特定の点を表わす請求項27記載の方法。

【請求項30】

各信号配列内の複数の点が、特定のグレイマッピング方式に基づく値を割り当てられる請求項29記載の方法。

【請求項31】

値を、各信号配列内の複数の点に割り当てて、信号配列内の隣り合う点の値が、1ビット位置分、異なるようにする請求項30記載の方法。

【請求項32】

1 変調記号に対する情報ビット数の判断と、変調方式の識別と、符号化レートの判断とを 反復することによって、複数の伝送チャンネルの変化に適応することがさらに含まれる請 求項1記載の方法。

【請求項33】

各伝送チャンネルの変調方式が、1変調記号に対して2以上の符号化されたビットの伝送を支援する請求項1記載の方法。

【請求項34】

複数の伝送チャンネル上での伝送が、単一受信者の受信デバイスを意図されている請求項 1記載の方法。

【請求項35】

直交周波数分割変調(OFDM)通信システムにおいて、複数の伝送チャンネル上で伝送するデータを準備するための方法であって、各伝送チャンネルが、各変調記号系列を伝送するように動作し、

各伝送チャンネルによって支援される1変調記号に対する情報ビット数を判断することと

各伝送チャンネルの変調方式を識別して、1変調記号に対する判断された数の情報ビットを支援することと、

1変調記号に対する判断された数の情報ビットと、伝送チャンネルに対する識別された変調方式とに少なくとも基づいて、各伝送チャンネルの符号化レートを判断して、少なくとも2本の伝送チャンネルを異なる符号化レートと関係付けることと、

特定のターボ符号にしたがって複数の情報ビットを符号化して、複数のテールおよびパリティビットを供給することと、

特定のインターリービング方式にしたがって、複数の情報ビットと、テールおよびパリティビットとをインターリーブすることと、

特定のパンクチャリング方式にしたがって、複数のインターリーブされたビットをパンクチャして、多数のパンクチャされていない符号化されたビットを複数の伝送チャンネルに供給して、少なくとも2本の伝送チャンネルに対して異なる符号化レートを達成するようにパンクチャリングを調整することと、

複数の伝送チャンネルに対して非二値記号を形成して、各非二値記号に、パンクチャされていない符号化されたビットのグループが収められるようすることと、

各非二値記号を各変調記号へマップすることとが含まれる方法。

【請求項36】

複数の伝送チャンネル上でデータを伝送するように動作する無線通信システムであって、 各伝送チャンネルを使用して、各変調記号系列を伝送し、

符号器であって、特定の符号化方式にしたがって複数の情報ビットを符号化して、複数の符号化されたビットを供給し、かつ特定のパンクチャリング方式にしたがって複数の符号化されたビットをパンクチャして、多数のパンクチャされていない符号化されたビットを複数の伝送チャンネルへ供給し;各伝送チャンネルは、伝送チャンネルに対して選択された特定の変調方式によって、1変調記号に対する特定数の情報ビットを伝送することができ、さらに加えて、各伝送チャンネルは、伝送チャンネルおよび変調方式によって支援される1変調記号に対する情報ビット数に少なくとも依存する特定の符号化レートに関係付けられていて、少なくとも2本の伝送チャンネルは、異なる符号化レートと関係付けられていて、符号器が、少なくとも2本の伝送チャンネルに対する異なる符号化レートを実現するようにパンクチャリングを調節するように構成されている符号器が構成されている無線通信システム。

【請求項37】

符号器に接続され、かつ複数の符号化されたビットをインターリーブするように構成されているチャンネルインターリーバがさらに構成されていて、

符号器が、インターリーブされたビットをパンクチャするように構成されている請求項3 6記載のシステム。

【請求項38】

チャンネルインターリーバに接続された記号マッピング素子であって、複数の伝送チャンネルに対して非二値記号を形成し、パンクチャされていない符号化されたビットのグループが収められている各非二値記号を、各変調記号へマップする記号マッピング素子がさらに構成されている請求項37記載のシステム。

【請求項39】

記号マッピング素子に接続され、複数の伝送チャンネルの変調記号を事前調整して、多重 入力多重出力(MIMO)伝送を実行するように構成されている信号プロセッサがさらに 構成されている請求項38記載のシステム。

【発明の詳細な説明】

【技術分野】

[0001]

本発明は、データ通信に関する。とくに、本発明は、異なる伝送能力を有する多数の伝送 チャンネル上で伝送するデータを符号化するための新規で、融通性のある、効率的な符号 化方式に関する。

【背景技術】

[0002]

無線通信システムは、音声、データ、等のような種々のタイプの通信を提供するために、広く配備されている。これらのシステムは、符号分割多重アクセス(code division multiple access, CDMA)、時分割多重アクセス(time division multiple access, TDMA)、直交周波数分割変調(orthogonal frequency division modulation, OFDM)、または他の変調技術に基づいている。いくつかのチャンネル環境では、OFDMシステムが高い性能を有する。

[0003]

OFDMシステムでは、動作周波数バンドは、多数の"周波数サブチャンネル"、すなわち周波数ビンへ効率的に分割される。各サブチャンネルは、データを変調する各サブキャリアと関係付けられていて、独立の"伝送チャンネル"と考えられる。一般に、伝送されるデータ(すなわち、情報ビット)を特定の符号化方式で符号化して、符号化されたビットを生成する。高度の変調方式(例えば、QPSK、QAM、など)では、符号化されたビットは非二値記号へまとめられ、サブキャリアを変調するのに使用される。

[0004]

OFDMシステムの周波数サブチャンネルは、異なるリンク状態(例えば、異なるフェー

ジングおよびマルチパスの影響)を経ると、信号対雑音および干渉比(signal-to-noise-plus-interference ratio, SNR)が異なる。したがって、個々の性能レベルにおいて各サブチャンネル上で伝送される1変調記号に対する情報ビット数(すなわち、情報ビットレート)は、サブチャンネルごとに異なる。さらに加えて、一般に、リンク状態は時間にしたがって変化する。その結果、サブチャンネルにおいて支援されるビットレートも、時間にしたがって変化する。

【発明の開示】

【発明が解決しようとする課題】

[0005]

周波数サブチャンネルの伝送能力が異なることと、能力が時間にしたがって変化することとにより、サブチャンネルに必要な符号化されたビットを得るために、支援される情報ビット数/変調記号を符号化できる効率的な符号化方式を用意することが困難になった。

[0006]

したがって、多数のサブチャンネル上で伝送するデータを符号化するのに使用される高性能で、効率的で、融通性のある符号化方式が、非常に求められている。

【課題を解決するための手段】

[0007]

【発明の効果】

[0008]

本発明の種々の態様では、多数の"伝送チャンネル"上で、チャンネルで実現したSNRに基づく異なる情報ビットレートで、データを伝送できる通信システムのための効率的で効果的な符号化技術を与えている。多数の符号化/パンクチャリング方式を使用して、必要な符号化されたビット(すなわち、ターボ符号が使用されるときは、情報、テール、パリティビット)を生成する。第1の符号化/パンクチャリング方式では、全ての伝送チャンネル(例えば、別途記載するように、多重入力/多重出力アンテナ(multiple input/multiple output antenna, MIMO)を備えた、OFDMシステムにおける全ての周波数サブチャンネル、またはOFDMシステムにおける全ての周波数サブチャンネル)において、特定の基礎符号および共通のパンクチャリングを使用する。第2の符号化/パンクチャリング方式では、伝送チャンネルにおいて、同じ基礎符号であるが、可変のパンクチャリングを使用する。可変のパンクチャリングを使用して、伝送チャンネルに対して異なる符号化レートを与えることができる。各伝送チャンネルの符号化レートは、チャンネルに対して選択された情報ビットレートおよび変調方式に依存する。

[0009]

本発明の実施形態では、通信システム、例えば直交周波数分割変調(orthogonal frequency division modulation, OFDM)システム内の多数の伝送チャンネル上で伝送するデータを用意するための方法を提供する。各伝送チャンネルは、各変調記号系列を伝送するように動作することができる。この方法にしたがうと、各伝送チャンネルによって支援される1変調記号に対する情報ビット数は、(例えば、チャンネルのSNRに基づいて)判断される。次に、変調方式を各伝送チャンネルごとに識別し、1変調記号に対する判断された数の情報ビットを支援する。1変調記号に対する支援される情報ビット数と、識別された変調方式とに基づいて、各伝送チャンネルの符号化レートを判断する。少なくとも2本の伝送チャンネルは、伝送能力が異なるために、異なる符号化レートと関係付けられる。

[0010]

その後で、特定の符号化方式にしたがって、多数の情報ビットを符号化して、多数の符号化されたビットを得る。ターボ符号を使用するときは、情報ビットに対して、多数のテールおよびパリティビットを生成する(符号化されたビットには、情報ビット、テールビット、およびパリティビットが含まれる)。符号化されたビットは、特定のインターリービング方式にしたがってインターリーブされる。構成を簡単にするために、パンクチャリングの前に、インターリービングを行ってもよい。次に、特定のパンクチャリング方式にしたがって、符号化されたビット(例えば、ターボ符号が使用されるときは、テールおよび

パリティビット)をパンクチャして、多数のパンクチャされていない符号化されたビットを伝送チャンネルに与える。パンクチャリングを調節して、伝送チャンネルに必要な異なる符号化レートを実現する。その代りに、インターリービングの前に、パンクチャリングを行ってもよい。

[0011]

次に、伝送チャンネルごとに、非二値記号を生成する。各非二値記号には、インターリーブされて、パンクチャされていない符号化されたビットのグループが含まれ、各変調記号にマップされる。各非二値記号内の特定数の符号化されたビットは、チャンネルの変調方式に依存する。別途記載するように、多重入力多重出力(MIMO)システムでは、各周波数サブチャンネルの多数の空間サブチャンネル上で伝送でき、各周波数サブチャンネルの変調記号は、伝送前に事前調整される。

[0012]

別途詳しく記載するように、本発明は、本発明の種々の態様、実施形態、および特徴が構成されている方法およびシステムの要素を提供する。

本発明の、特徴、性質、および長所は、別途記載する詳細な説明を、図面と共に参照する ことによって、一致する参照符号により全体的に対応して同定され、より明らかになるで あろう。

【発明を実施するための最良の形態】

[0013]

【実施例】

[0014]

図1は、本発明の種々の態様および実施形態を実行することができる多重入力多重出力(multiple-input multiple-output, MIMO) 通信システム100の図である。通信システム100 は、本明細書に記載されている符号化方式を実行するように設計することができる。シス テム100は、アンテナ、周波数、および時間のダイバーシティの組合せを用いて、スペク トル効率を向上し、性能を改良し、融通性を高めるように動作することもできる。向上し たスペクトル効率は、使用可能なシステムのバンド幅をよりよく利用できる時と場所にお いて、ビット/秒/ヘルツ(bit per second per Hertz, bps/Hz)における伝送能力がより 高いことを特徴とする。性能の向上は、例えば、所与のリンクの信号対雑音および干渉比 (signal-to-noise-plus-interference, SNR) に対する、ビット誤り率 (bit-error-rate , BER) またはフレーム誤り率 (frame-error-rate, FER) がより低くなることによって量 子化される。高められた融通性は、種々の、一般に全く異なる要件を有する多数のユーザ に適応する能力によって特徴付けられる。これらの目標の一部は、高性能で効率的な符号 化方式、マルチキャリア変調、時分割多重化 (time division multiplexing, TDM) 、多 数の送信アンテナおよび/または受信アンテナ、他の技術、あるいはその組合せを用いる ことによって実現する。本発明の特徴、態様、および長所については、さらに詳しく別途 記載する。

[0015]

図1に示されているように、通信システム100には第1のシステム110および第2のシステム150が構成されていて、第1のシステム110は、第2のシステム150と通信する。システム110内では、データ源112は、データ(すなわち、情報ビット)を符号器114へ供給し、符号器114は特定の符号化方式にしたがってデータを符号化する。符号化により、データ伝送の信頼性が向上する。次に、符号化されたビットは、チャンネルインターリーバ116へ供給され、特定のインターリービング方式にしたがってインターリーブ(すなわち、順序変更)される。インターリービングして、符号化されたビットに時間および周波数のダイバーシティを行い、データ伝送に使用されるサブチャンネルの平均SNRに基づいてデータを伝送し、フェージングを抑制し、さらに加えて、使用する符号化されたビット間の相関関係を取り除いて、各変調記号を形成する。次に、インターリーブされたビットをパンクチャ(すなわち、削除)して、必要数の符号化されたビットを用意する。符号化、チャンネルインターリービング、およびパンクチャリングについては、さらに詳しく別途記

載する。パンクチャされていない符号化されたビットは、記号マッピング素子118へ供給される。

[0016]

OFDMシステムでは、動作周波数バンドは、多数の"周波数サブチャンネル"(すなわち、周波数ビン)へ効率的に分割される。各"時間スロット"(すなわち、周波数サブチャンネルのバンド幅に依存する特定の時間間隔)において、各周波数サブチャンネル上で、"変調記号"が伝送される。さらに詳しく別途記載されているように、OFDMシステムは、MIMOモードで動作し、MIMOモードでは、多数(N_T)の送信アンテナおよび多数(N_R)の受信アンテナをデータ伝送に使用する。MIMOチャンネルは、 $N_C \leq N_T$ および $N_C \leq N_R$ として、 N_C 本の独立チャンネルへ分解される。各 N_C 本の独立チャンネルは、MIMOモードでは、より高い次元が実現し、各時間スロットにおいて、 N_C 個の変調記号が、各周波数サブチャンネルの N_C 本の空間のサブチャンネル上を伝送される。OFDMシステムが、MIMOモード以外で動作するときは、空間のサブチャンネルは1本のみである。各周波数サブチャンネル/空間サブチャンネルも"伝送チャンネル"と呼ばれる。MIMOモードおよび空間サブチャンネルについては、さらに詳しく別途記載する。

[0017]

特定の動作レベルにおいて各変調記号ごとに送られる情報ビット数は、伝送チャンネルの SNRに依存する。各伝送チャンネルでは、記号マッピング素子118は、1組のパンクチャされていない符号化されたビットをまとめて、その伝送チャンネルの非二値記号を形成する。次に、非二値記号は変調記号へマップされ、変調記号は、伝送チャンネルに対して 選択された変調方式に対応する信号配列内の点を表わす。データ伝送に使用される全伝送チャンネルおよび各時間スロットに対して、ビットのグループ化および符号のマッピングが行われる。全伝送チャンネルの変調記号は、MIMOプロセッサ120へ供給される。

[0018]

(実行される場合は)実行される特定の"空間"ダイバーシティに依存して、MIMOプロセッサ120は、受信した変調記号をデマルチプレックスし、事前調整し、結合する。MIMO処理については、さらに詳しく別途記載する。各送信アンテナでは、MIMOプロセッサ120は、1時間スロットに1ベクトルから成る、変調記号ベクトルのストリームを供給する。各変調記号ベクトルには、所与の時間スロットごとの全周波数サブチャンネルの変調記号が含まれている。変調記号ベクトルの各ストリームは、それぞれの変調器(modulator, MOD)122によって受信されて、変調され、関係するアンテナ124を介して伝送される。

【0019】

図1に示されている実施形態では、受信システム150には、多数の受信アンテナ152が構成されていて、受信アンテナ152は送られた信号を受信して、受信した信号を各復調器(dmo dul ator, DEMOD) 154へ供給する。各復調器154は、変調器122において実行される処理に対応する処理を行なう。全復調器154からの復調符号は、MIMOプロセッサ156へ供給され、MIMOプロセッサ120において行われた処理を相補するやり方で処理される。伝送チャンネルの受信記号は、ビット計算ユニット158へ供給され、ビット計算ユニット158は、記号マッピング素子118によって実行された処理を相補する処理を行ない、受信ビットを示す値を供給する。デパンクチャ装置159は、消去(例えば、ゼロ値)を、システム110においてパンクチャされた符号化されたビットに挿入する。デパンクチャされた値は、チャンネルデインターリーバ160によってデインターリーブされ、復号器162によって復号化され、復号化されたビットを生成し、復号化されたビットは、データシンク164へ供給される。チャンネルのデインターリービング、デパンクチャリング、および復号化は、送信機におけるチャンネルのインターリービング、パンクチャリング、および符号化と相補するものである。

[0020]

図2は、MIMOシステム内の N_T 本中の1 本の送信アンテナからのOFDM伝送をグラフで示している。図2において、水平方向の軸は時間を表わし、垂直方向の軸は周波数を表わす。この特定の例では、伝送チャンネルには、16 本の周波数サブチャンネルが構成されていて、伝送チャンネルは、OFDMの記号系列を伝送するのに使用され、8OFDMの記号は、全16 本の周波数サブチャンネルをカバーする。時分割多重化(time division multiplexing, TDM)構造も示されており、TDM構造では、データ伝送を時間スロットへ分割し、各時間スロットは特定の継続時間を有する。図2に示されている例では、時間スロットは、1 変調記号の長さに等しい。

[0021]

使用可能な周波数サブチャンネルを使用して、シグナリング、音声、パケットデータ、などを伝送してもよい。図2に示されている特定の例では、時間スロット1の変調記号は、パイロットデータに対応し、パイロットデータは定期的に伝送され、受信機ユニットが同期して、チャンネル推定を行うのを支援する。時間および周波数上にパイロットデータを分配するための他の技術も使用される。パイロット変調記号は、通常は、特定のレートで伝送され、このレートは、普通は、通信リンクにおける変化を正確に追跡するのに十分な速さになるように選択される。

[0022]

パイロット伝送に使用されない時間スロットを使用して、種々のタイプのデータを伝送することができる。例えば、周波数サブチャンネル1は制御データを、周波数サブチャンネル2は同報通信データを、受信機ユニットへ伝送するために確保されている。これらのサブチャンネル上のデータは、一般に、全受信機ユニットによって受信されることを意図されている。しかしながら、制御チャンネル上のメッセージの一部はユーザ別であり、それに応じて符号化される。

[0023]

音声データおよびパケットデータは、残りの周波数サブチャンネルにおいて伝送される。 図示されている例では、サブチャンネル3は、時間スロット2ないし9において音声呼1 に使用され、サブチャンネル4は、時間スロット2ないし9において音声呼2に使用され、サブチャンネル5は、時間スロット5ないし9において音声呼3に使用され、サブチャンネル6は、時間スロット7ないし9において音声呼5に使用される。

[0024]

残りの使用可能な周波数サブチャンネルおよび時間スロットは、トラヒックデータを伝送するのに使用される。特定のデータが、多数のサブチャンネルまたは多数の時間スロット、あるいはこの両者において伝送されることもあり、多数のデータが、特定の時間スロット中に伝送されることもある。データは、不連続の時間スロット上で伝送されることもある。

[0025]

図2に示されている例では、データ1の伝送は、時間スロット2において周波数サブチャンネル5ないし16を使用し、時間スロット7においてサブチャンネル7ないし16を使用し、データ2の伝送は、時間スロット3および4においてサブチャンネル5ないし16を使用し、時間スロット5においてサブチャンネル6ないし16を使用し、データ3の伝送は、時間スロット6においてサブチャンネル6ないし16を使用し、データ4の伝送は、時間スロット8においてサブチャンネル7ないし16を使用し、データ5の伝送は、時間スロット9においてサブチャンネル7ないし11を使用し、データ6の伝送は、時間スロット9においてサブチャンネル12ないし16を使用する。データ1ないし6の伝送は、受信機ユニットへのトラヒックデータの伝送を表わす。

[0026]

伝送に融通性を与えて、高い性能および効率を実現するために、各送信アンテナごとの各時間スロットにおける各周波数サブチャンネルを、独立の伝送単位(変調記号)と考えて、これを使用して、パイロット、シグナリング、同報通信、音声、トラヒックデータ、他のデータタイプ、またはその組み合わせのようなデータタイプを伝送することができる。

別途記載するように、変調記号を独立させることによって、融通性、性能、効率も実現できる。例えば、各変調記号は、特定の時間、周波数、および空間において資源を最適に使用する変調方式(例えば、M-PSK、M-QAM、または他の方式)から生成される。【0027】

MIMOシステム

地上通信システム(例えば、セルラシステム、同報通信システム、マルチチャンネル マルチポイント分配システム(multi-channel multi-point distribution system, MMDS)、など)において、送信機ユニットからのRF変調信号は、多数の伝送経路を経由して受信機ユニットに到達する。伝送経路の特徴は、一般に、多数の要素によって時間にしたがって変化する。2本以上の送信または受信アンテナを使用するとき、および送信アンテナと受信アンテナとの間の伝送経路が線形に独立しているとき(すなわち、一方の伝送が他方の伝送の線形の組合せとして形成されないとき)(これらは、一般に、少なくとも一定の範囲において真である)、伝送信号を正しく受信する確率は、アンテナ数が増加するのにしたがって高まる。一般に、送信アンテナおよび受信アンテナの数が増加するのにしたがって、ダイバーシティは増加し、性能が向上する。

[0028]

図1に示されているようなMIMO通信システムでは、通信リンクの送信端と受信端の両者においてアンテナを用いている。これらの送信アンテナおよび受信アンテナを使用して、種々の形態の"空間ダイバーシティ"(例えば、"送信"ダイバーシティおよび"受信"ダイバーシティ)を供給する。空間ダイバーシティは、多数の送信アンテナと1本以上の受信アンテナとを使用することによって特徴付けられる。送信ダイバーシティは、多数の送信アンテナによってデータを送ることによって特徴付けられる。一般に、送信アンテナから送られたデータに対して、追加の処理を行って、希望のダイバーシティを実現する。例えば、異なる送信アンテナから送られたデータに対して、遅延または時間上の順序変更をし、使用可能な送信アンテナにおいて符号化およびインターリーブする、などである。受信ダイバーシティは、多数の受信アンテナ上で送られた信号を受信することによって特徴付けられ、ダイバーシティは、異なる信号経路を経由した信号を単に受信することによって実現する。

[0029]

空間ダイバーシティは、リンク容量が増加しても、または増加しなくても、通信リンクの信頼性を向上するのに使用される。これは、多数のアンテナを経由して、多数の経路上でデータを送信または受信することによって実現する。空間ダイバーシティは、通信リンクの特徴に基づいて動的に選択を行って、要求される性能を得るものである。より高い程度の空間ダイバーシティは、例えば、幾つかのタイプの通信(例えば、シグナリング)、幾つかのタイプのサービス(例えば、音声)、幾つかの通信リンクの特徴(例えば、低SNR)、または幾つかの他の条件または考慮すべき事項において得られる。

[0030]

希望のダイバーシティを得るために、データを多数のアンテナから、または多数の周波数サブチャンネル上で、あるいはこの両者で送ってもよい。例えば、データは、(1)1本のアンテナから1本のサブチャンネル上で、(2)多数のアンテナから1本のサブチャンネル(例えば、サブチャンネル1)上で、(3)全 N_T 本のアンテナから1本のサブチャンネル上で、(4)1本のアンテナから1組のサブチャンネル(例えば、サブチャンネル1および2)上で、(5)多数のアンテナから1組のサブチャンネル上で、(6)全 N_T 本のアンテナから1組のサブチャンネル上で、または(7)1組のアンテナから1組のチャンネル上で(例えば、1時間スロットにおいてアンテナ1および2からサブチャンネル1上で、他の時間スロットにおいてアンテナ1および2上で、など)伝送される。したがって、サブチャンネルおよびアンテナの組合せを使用して、アンテナおよび周波数ダイバーシティを得る。

[0031]

MIMO通信システムでは、多重入力多重出力チャンネルは、1組の N_C 本の独立の空間

サブチャンネルへ分解される。このような空間サブチャンネルの数は、送信アンテナ数および受信アンテナ数のより少ない方以下である(すなわち、 $N_C \leq N_T$ および $N_C \leq N_R$)。Hが、特定の時間において N_T 本の送信アンテナおよび N_R 本の受信アンテナに対するチャンネル応答を与える $N_R \times N_T$ の行列であって、 \underline{x} がチャンネルへの N_T ーベクトル入力であるとき、受信信号は、次に示す式で表現できる;

y = H x + n

なお、 \underline{n} は、 N_R -ベクトルは雑音と干渉との和を表わす。1 つの実施形態では、チャンネル行列と共役転置 (conjugate-transponse) との積によって形成されたエルミート行列の固有ベクトルの分解は、次に示す式で表現できる;

 $H * H = E \Lambda E *$

なお、符号"*"は共役転置を示し、Eはエルミート行列であり、 Λ は、次元 N_T $\times N_T$ の両者で固有値の対角行列である。

[0032]

送信機は、固有ベクトル行列Eを使用して、1組の N_T 個の変調記号 \underline{b} を変換する(すな わち、事前調整する)。 N_T 本の送信アンテナからの送信された変調記号は、次に示す式 で表現できる;

x = E b.

全てのアンテナでは、次に示す行列乗算演算によって、変調記号の事前調整を実現することができる。

[0033]

【数1】

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ M \\ x_{N_T} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} e_{11}, & e_{12}, & e_{1N_T} \\ e_{21}, & e_{22}, & e_{2N_T} \\ e_{N_T1}, & e_{N_T1}, & e_{N_TN_T} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \\ M \\ b_{N_T} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\stackrel{\Rightarrow}{\Rightarrow} (1)$$

 \mathbf{b}_1 、 \mathbf{b}_2 、... および \mathbf{b}_{N_T} は、それぞれ、送信アンテナ $\mathbf{1}$, $\mathbf{2}$ 、... \mathbf{N}_T に おける特定の周波数サブチャンネルの変調記号を表わし、各変調記号は、別途記載するように、例えば $\mathbf{M} - \mathbf{P} \, \mathbf{S} \, \mathbf{K} \, \mathbf{M} - \mathbf{Q} \, \mathbf{A} \, \mathbf{M}$ 、などを使用して生成することができる;

Eは、送信アンテナから受信アンテナへの伝送特徴に関係する固有ベクトルの行列である:

 \mathbf{x}_1 、 \mathbf{x}_2 、... \mathbf{x}_{N_T} は、事前調整された変調記号であり、次のように示すことができる:

$$\begin{split} x_1 &= b_1 \cdot e_{11} + b_2 \cdot e_{12} + \ \dots \ + b_{N_T} \cdot e_{1N_T} \ , \\ x_2 &= b_1 \cdot e_{21} + b_2 \cdot e_{22} + \ \dots \ + b_{N_T} \cdot e_{2N_T} \ , \ \text{is if } \\ x_{N_T} &= b_1 \cdot e_{N_T 1} + b_2 \cdot e_{N_T 2} + \ \dots \ + b_{N_T} \cdot e_{N_T N_T} \end{split}$$

受信記号は、次に示す式で表わすことができる;

y = H E b + n.

受信機は、チャンネル整合フィルタ処理を行い、次に正しい固有ベクトルによって乗算す

る。チャンネルー整合-フィルタ処理の結果は、ベクトル \underline{z} であり、次の式で表現される;

[0034]

【数2】

$\underline{\mathbf{z}} = E^{\dagger} \mathbf{H}^{\dagger} \mathbf{H} E \mathbf{b} + E^{\dagger} \mathbf{H}^{\dagger} \mathbf{n} = \mathbf{\Lambda} \mathbf{b} + \hat{\mathbf{n}}$

なお、新しいノイズ項は共役を有し、次に示す:

$E(\hat{n}\hat{n}^*) = E(E^*\mathbf{H}^*\mathbf{n}\mathbf{n}^*\mathbf{H}E) = E^*\mathbf{H}^*\mathbf{H}E = \Lambda$

すなわち、雑音成分は独立していて、かつ固有値によって与えられる変数を有する。zの i 番目の成分のSNRは、 λ_i 、すなわち Λ のi 番目の対角成分である。

MIMO処理の実施形態は、2000年5月22日に出願された米国特許出願第09/532,491号("HIGH EFFICIENCY, HIGH PERFORMANCE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM EMPLOYING MULTI-CARRIE R MODULATION") に記載されており、第09/532,491号は本出願の譲受人に譲渡され、本明 細書において参考文献として取り上げられている。

[0035]

これらのチャンネルが互いに独立しているときは、上述の実施形態に記載されているMIMOチャンネル内の N_C 本の空間サブチャンネルの各々は、固有モード (eignmode) とも呼ばれる。MIMOモードでは、各変調記号は、各周波数サブチャンネルにおいて各固有モードで伝送することができる。各SNRは各固有モードごとに異なるので、各固有モードで伝送されるビット数も異なる。既に記載したように、各周波数サブチャンネルの各固有モードも、伝送チャンネルと呼ばれる。

[0036]

他の実施形態では、空間サブチャンネルは、異なるように生成される。例えば、空間サブチャンネルは、1本の送信アンテナから全受信アンテナへの伝送として定義することができる。

ここで使用されているように、MIMOモードには、全チャンネル状態情報(full channel state information, full-CSI)および部分-CSI処理モードが含まれる。全-CSIと部分-CSIの両者において、追加の伝送経路は、空間的に分かれたサブチャンネルによって与えられる。既に記載したように、全-CSI処理は固有モードを使用する。部分-CSI処理では、固有モードを使用せず、各伝送チャンネル(すなわち、受信ダイバーシティポート)ごとに(例えば、逆方向リンク上のフィードバックを介して)送信機ユニットへSNRを供給し、受信したSNRに基づいて符号化することを含む。

[0037]

受信機ユニットにおいて多数の式を使用して、部分-CSIの必要情報を供給する。部分-CSIの必要情報には、この技術において知られているように、ゼローフォーシング(zero-forcing)、チャンネル相関行列反転(channel correlation matrix inversion, CC MI)、および最小平均平方誤差(minimum mean square error, MMSE)が含まれる。例えば、非線形のゼローフォーシング(部分-CSI)のMIMOの場合のSNRの導出については、P.W. Wolniansky、他による文献("V-BLAST: An Architecture for Realizing Very High Data Rates Over the Rich-Scattering Wireless Channel",Proc. IEEE IS SSE-98,Pisa,Italy,Sept. 30,1998)に記載されており、これは、本明細書において参考文献として取り上げられている。MIMOの式からの固有値は、全-CSIの場合の固有モードのSNRに関係する。非-MIMOの場合は、この技術において知られている方法の組合せを使用することができる。

[0038]

各伝送チャンネルは、送信機と受信機の両者に分かっているSNRで関係付けられる。この場合は、対応する伝送チャンネルのSNRに基づいて、各変調記号の変調および符号化

パラメータを判断することができる。これは、使用可能な周波数サブチャンネルおよび固有モードを効率的に使用することができる。

[0039]

表1には、情報ビット数、すなわち各変調記号において、種々のSNRの範囲において特定の性能レベル(例えば、1%のフレームエラーレート(frame error rate)、すなわち%FER)で送られる情報ビット数が記載されている。各SNRの範囲において、表1には、そのSNRの範囲で使用するために選択された特定の変調方式、選択された変調方式で各変調記号において伝送される符号化されたビット数、および支援される数の情報ビット/変調記号を与えられたときに、必要な数の符号化されたビット/変調記号を得るのに使用される符号化レートも記載されている。

[0040]

表1には、各SNRの範囲ごとの、変調方式および符号化レートの1つの組合せが記載されている。各伝送チャンネルにおいて支援されるビットレートは、符号化レートおよび変調方式の多数の可能な組合わせの中の1つを使用して、実現することができる。例えば、1記号に対する1情報ビットは、(1)1/2の符号化レートおよびQPSK変調、(2)1/3の符号化レートおよび8-PSK変調、(3)1/4の符号化レートおよび16-QAM、または(4)符号化レートと変調方式との他の組合せを使用して、実現することができる。表1では、記載されているSNRの範囲において、1、QPSK、16-QAM、および64-QAMが使用されている。8-PSK、32-QAM、128-QAM、などのような他の変調方式も使用でき、本発明の技術的範囲内である。

[0041]

【表1】

表 1

SNR の範囲	情報ビット数 /記号	変調記号	符号化された ビット数/記号	符号化 レート
1.5 - 4.4	1	QPSK	2	1/2
4.4 - 6.4	1.5	QPSK	2	3/4
6.4 - 8.35	2	16 - QAM	4	1/2
8.35 - 10.4	2.5	16 - QAM	4	5/8
10.4 - 12.3	3	16 - QAM	4	3/4
12.3 - 14.15	3.5	64 - QAM	6	7/12
14.15 - 15.55	4	64 - QAM	6	2/3
15.55 - 17.35	4.5	64 - QAM	6	3/4
>17.35	5	64 - QAM	6	5/6

明らかにするために、本発明の種々の態様は、OFDMシステム、および多くの場合に、MIMOモードで動作するOFDMシステムについて記載されている。しかしながら、本明細書に記載されている符号化および処理技術は、一般に、種々の通信システム、例えば(1)MIMO以外で動作するOFDMシステム、(2)OFDM以外で動作する(すなわち、多数の部分サブチャンネルではなく、単一の周波数サブチャンネル、すなわち単一のRF搬送波に基づいて動作する)MIMOシステム、(3)OFDMで動作するMIMOシステム、および(4)その他に適用される。OFDMは、単に、広帯域チャンネルを、多数の直交周波数サブチャンネルへ細分するための1つの技術である。

[0042]

符号化

図3 a は、並列連結された畳込み符号器 $114\times$ の1つの実施形態のブロック図であり、並列連結された畳込み符号器 $114\times$ は、しばしばターボ符号器と呼ばれる。ターボ符号器 $114\times$ は、図1の符号器の順方向誤り訂正(forward error correction, FEC)部分の1つの構成を表わしていて、2本以上の伝送チャンネル上で伝送するデータを符号化するのに使用できる。

[0043]

符号器114における符号化には、誤り訂正符号化、または誤り検出符号化、あるいはこの両者が含まれ、リンクの信頼性を向上するのに使用される。符号化には、例えば、巡回冗長検査(cyclic redundancy check, CRC)の符号化、畳込み符号化、トレリス符号化、ブロック符号化(例えば、リードソロモン符号化)、他のタイプの符号化、あるいはこれらの組み合わせが含まれる。無線通信システムでは、パケットデータは、特定のCRC符号で最初に符号化され、CRCビットはデータパケットに付される。追加のオーバーヘッドビットは、データパケットへ付され、フォーマットされたデータパケットを形成し、フォーマットされたデータパケットへ付され、フォーマットされたデータパケットは、畳込みまたはターボ符号で符号化される。本明細書で使用されているように、"情報ビット"は、畳込みまたはターボ符号器へ供給されるビット(例えば、伝送されたデータビットと、伝送されたビットに誤り検出または訂正の能力を与えるのに使用されるビット)を指す。

[0044]

図3 a に示されているように、ターボ符号器114×には、2つの構成符号器312aおよび31 2bと、符号インターリーバ314とが構成されている。構成符号器312aは、第1の構成符号にしたがって、情報ビット、xを受信して、符号化し、第1の系列のテールおよびパリティビット、yを生成する。符号インターリーバ3144は、情報ビットを受信して、特定のインターリービング方式にしたがってインターリーブする。構成符号器312bは、第2の構成符号にしたがってインターリーブされたビットを受信して、符号化して、第2の系列のテールおよびパリティビット、zを生成する。符号器312aおよび312bからの情報ビット、テールビット、およびパリティビットは、次の処理要素(チャンネルインターリーバ116)へ供給される。

[0045]

図3 b は、ターボ符号器114yの1 つの実施形態の図であり、これはターボ符号器114xの1 つの構成であり、図1 の符号器114内でも使用できる。この例では、ターボ符号器114yは、1/3レートの符号器であり、各情報ビットxに対して、2 つのパリティビット、yおよび z を供給する。

[0046]

図3 b に示されている実施形態では、ターボ符号器114gの各構成符号器322は、構成符号に対して次に示す伝達関数を実行する:

[0047]

【数3】

$$G(D) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \frac{n(D)}{d(D)} \end{bmatrix} ,$$

なお

$$n(D) = 1 + D + D^3$$
 , および
$$d(D) = 1 + D^2 + D^3$$

他の構成符号も使用でき、本発明の技術的範囲内である。

各構成符号器322には、多数の直列接続された遅延素子332、多数のモジューロー2加算器334、およびスイッチ336が構成されている。最初に、遅延素子332の状態はゼロに設定されていて、スイッチ336はアップ位置である。次に、データパケット内の各情報ビットにおいて、加算器334aは、情報ビットと、加算器334cからの出力ビットとをモジューロー2加算し、その結果を遅延素子332aへ供給する。加算器334bは、加算器334aと、遅延素子332aおよび332cからのビットとをモジューロー2加算し、パリティビットyを供給する。加算器334cは、遅延素子332bおよび332cからのビットをモジューロー2加算する。

[0048]

データパケット内の全部でN個の情報ビットを符号化した後で、スイッチ336はダウン位置へ動かされ、3つのゼロ("0")ビットは構成符号器322aへ供給される。次に、構成符号器322aは3つのゼロビットを符号化して、3つのテールの系統的ビットおよび3つのテールパリティビットを供給する。

[0049]

N個の情報ビットの各パケットごとに、構成符号器322aはN個の情報ビットx、第1の3つのテールの系統的ビット、N個のパリティビットy、および第1の3つのテールパリティビットを供給し、構成符号器322bは、第2の3つのテールの系統的ビット、N個のパリティビットz、および最後の3つのテールのパリティビットを供給する。各パケットにおいて、符号器114yでは、符号器322aからはN個の情報ビット、6個のテールの系統的ビット、N+3個のパリティビットを供給し、符号器322bからはN+3個のパリティビットを供給する。

【0050】

【0051】

上述のLCS符号インターリービング方式は、一緒に譲渡された1998年12月4日に出願された米国特許出願第09/205,511号("TURBO CODE INTERLEAVER USING LINEAR CONGRUENTI

AL SEQUENCES") 、および"C.S0002-A-1 Physical Layer Standard for cdma2000 Spread Spectrum Systems"(以下では、cdma2000 標準規格と呼ぶ)にさらに詳しく記載されており、本明細書では、両文献を参考文献として取り上げている。

[0052]

他の符号インターリーバも使用でき、本発明の技術的範囲内である。上述の線形コングルエンシャル系列インターリーバの代わりに、例えば、ランダムインターリーバまたは対称ランダム(symmetrical-random, S-random)インターリーバを使用してもよい。

【0053】

明らかにするために、とくに、ターボ符号に基づくデータ符号化について記載する。他の符号化方式も使用でき、本発明の技術的範囲内である。例えば、データは、畳込み符号;ブロック符号;ブロック符号、畳込み符号、および/またはターボ符号の組合せから構成される連結符号;または他の符号から構成される。データは、"基礎"符号にしたがって符号化され、その後で、符号化されたビットは、データを伝送するのに使用される伝送チャンネルの能力に基づいて処理(例えば、パンクチャ)される。

【0054】

チャンネルインターリービング

再び図1を参照すると、符号器114からの符号化されたビットは、チャンネルインターリーバ116によってインターリーブされ、悪い経路の影響(例えば、フェージング)に対して時間および周波数ダイバーシティを行う。さらに加えて、符号化されたビットは、その後で一緒にまとめられて、非二値記号を形成し、非二値記号は変調記号へマップされるので、インターリービングにより、各変調記号を形成する符号化されたビットが(一時的に)互いに近くに位置しないことが保証される。静的な付加のホワイトガウス雑音(additive white Gaussian noise、AWGN)チャンネルでは、ターボ符号器も用いられるときは、符号インターリーバが同様の機能を効率的に行うので、チャンネルインターリービングの重要性は低減する。

[0055]

チャンネルインターリーバでは、種々のインターリービング方式が使用される。1つのインターリービング方式では、各パケットごとに、符号化されたビット(すなわち、情報、テール、およびパリティビット)がメモリの行へ(線形に)書き込まれる。各行内のビットは、(1)ビット反転規則、(2)線形のコングルエンシャル系列(例えば、上述で、符号インターリーバに関して記載されているもの)、(3)ランダムに生成されたパターン、または(4)他のやり方で生成された置換パターンに基づいて、置換(すなわち、再配置)される。行は、特定の行置換パターンにしたがって置換される。置換された符号化されたビットは、各列から検索され、パンクチャ装置117へ供給される。

【0056】

1つの実施形態では、チャンネルインターリービングは、パケット内の各ビットストリーム ごとに個々に行われる。各パケットごとに、情報ビット×、第1の構成符号器からのテールおよびパリティビットッ、および第2の構成符号器からのテールおよびパリティビット z は、3つの別々のインターリーバによってインターリーブされる。3つの別々のインターリービング方式は、同じであっても、異なっていてもよい。この別々のインターリービングにより、個々のビットストリームに対して融通の利くパンクチャリングを行うことができる。

【0057】

希望の時間および周波数のダイバーシティを行うために、インターリービング間隔を選択する。例えば、特定の時間間隔(例えば、10ミリ秒、20ミリ秒、またはそれ以外)、または特定数の伝送チャンネル、あるいはこの両者に対して、符号化されたビットをインターリーブしてもよい。

[0058]

パンクチャリング

既に記載されているように、OFDM通信システムでは、各変調記号において送られる情

報ビット数は、変調記号を送るのに使用される伝送チャンネルのSNRに依存する。MIMOモードで動作するOFDMシステムでは、各変調記号において送られる情報ビット数は、変調記号を送るのに使用される周波数サブチャンネルおよび空間サブチャンネルのSNRに依存する。

[0059]

本発明の1つの態様にしたがって、多数の符号化/パンクチャリング方式を使用して、伝送するための符号化されたビット(すなわち、情報、テール、およびパリティビット)を生成する。第1の符号化/パンクチャリング方式では、特定の基礎符号および共通のパンクチャリングを全ての伝送チャンネルに適用する。第2の符号化/パンクチャリング方式では、同じ基礎符号であるが、可変のパンクチャリングを伝送チャンネルに適用する。可変のパンクチャリングは、伝送チャンネルのSNRに依存する。

[0060]

図4 a は、基礎符号および共通のパンクチャリング方式を用いて、データ伝送に必要な符号化されたビットを生成する実施形態のフローチャートである。最初に、ステップ412では、各伝送チャンネル(すなわち、各周波数サブチャンネルの各固有モード)のSNRを判断する。MIMOモード以外で動作するOFDMシステムでは、1つの固有モードのみが支援され、各周波数サブチャンネルごとに、1つのみのSNRが判断される。各伝送チャンネルのSNRは、伝送されるパイロット参照に基づいて、または幾つかの他の機構を介して判断される。

[0061]

ステップ414では、SNRに基づいて、各伝送チャンネルによって支援される1変調記号に対する情報ビット数を判断する。表1のような、一定の範囲のSNRを、各特定数の情報ビット/変調記号と関係付ける表を使用する。しかしながら、表1に示されている情報ビットに対する0.5ビットのステップサイズよりも、より細かい量子化を使用してもよい。次に、ステップ416では、各伝送チャンネルごとに変調方式を選択し、情報ビット数/変調記号を伝送できるようにする。さらに詳しく別途記載するように、他の要素(例えば、符号化の複雑性)を考慮して、変調方式を選択してもよい。

[0062]

ステップ418では、全伝送チャンネルにおいて、各時間スロット内で伝送される情報ビットの合計数を判断する。これは、全伝送チャンネルにおいて判断される情報ビット数/変調記号を加算することによって達成される。同様に、ステップ420では、全ての伝送チャンネルにおいて、各時間スロット内で伝送される符号化されたビットの合計数を判断する。ステップ416において選択された各変調方式における符号化されたビット/変調記号数を判断し、さらに全伝送チャンネルごとに符号化されたビット数を加算することによって、これを達成することができる。

[0063]

ステップ422では、ステップ418で判断された合計数の情報ビットを、特定の符号器を使用して符号化する。ターボ符号器を使用するときは、符号器によって生成されたテールビットおよびパリティビットにパンクチャして、ステップ420において判断された符号化されたビットの合計数を求める。次に、ステップ426では、パンクチャされていない符号化されたビットを非二値記号へまとめて、それらを、伝送チャンネルの変調記号へマップする

[0064]

第1の符号化/パンクチャリング方式では、全ての伝送チャンネルにおいて、同じ基礎符号およびパンクチャリング方式を使用するので、実行するのが比較的に簡単である。各伝送チャンネルにおける変調記号は、その伝送チャンネルに対して選択された変調方式に対応する信号配列内の点を表わしている。伝送チャンネルにおけるSNRの分布が広がると、異なる信号配列における雑音の分散に関係する配列点間の距離は、大きく広がる。これは、システムの性能に影響を与える。

[0065]

図4 bは、同じ基礎符号であるが、可変のパンクチャリング方式を用いて、データ伝送に必要な符号化されたビットを生成するための実施形態のフローチャートである。最初に、ステップ432では、各伝送チャンネルに対するSNRを判断する。1 つの実施形態では、不十分なSNRの伝送チャンネルを、データ伝送に使用しない(すなわち、劣悪な伝送チャンネル上ではデータは送られない)。ステップ434では、各伝送チャンネルによって支援される1変調記号に対する情報ビット数を、SNRに基づいて判断する。ステップ436では、各伝送チャンネルごとに、変調方式を選択し、情報ビット数/変調記号を判断できるようにする。図4 bのステップ432、434、および436は、図4 aのステップ412、414、および416に対応する。

[0066]

ステップ438では、同じSNRの範囲に属する伝送チャンネルを、1セグメントにまとめる。その代りに、1 変調記号に対する情報ビット数の範囲を定めてもよい(例えば、範囲 1 は、1 のないし 1 のの情報ビット/変調記号、範囲 2 は、1 のの情報ビット/変調記号、など)。この場合に、同じ範囲内の1 変調記号に対する情報ビット数を有する伝送チャンネルを、1 セグメントにまとめる。

[0067]

各セグメントには、 K_1 (K_1 は1以上の任意の整数)本の伝送チャンネルが構成されている。ステップ440では、各セグメントにおいて伝送できる情報ビットの合計数と、符号化されたビットの合計数とを判断する。例えば、セグメントiには、 K_1 本の伝送チャンネルが構成されており、各伝送チャンネルは、 N_1 個の情報ビット/変調記号と P_1 個のテールおよびパリティビット/変調記号を支援する。各時間スロットでは、セグメントiにおいて伝送される情報ビットの合計数を、 K_1 ・ N_1 として計算し、伝送されるテールおよびパリティビットの合計数を、 K_1 ・ P_1 として計算し、符号化されたビットの合計数を、 K_1 (N_1 + P_1)として計算する。

[0068]

【数4】

ステップ 422 では、全セグメントにおいて、各時間スロット内で伝送される情報ビット、すなわち $\sum_i K_i N_i$ として計算される情報ビットを、特定のエンコーダ(例えば、図 3 b に示されているような、1/3 レートのターボエンコーダ)で符号化する。

ステップ444では、 N_i 個の情報ビットおよび N_i /R(Rは、符号器の符号化レートである)個のパリティおよびテールビットを、セグメントi の各伝送チャンネルに割り当てる。次に、ステップ446では、 N_i /R個のパリティおよびテールビットをパンクチャして、セグメントの各伝送チャンネルに必要な P_i 個のパリティおよびテールビットを求める。ステップ448では、セグメントi の各伝送チャンネルごとに、 N_i 個の情報ビットおよび P_i 個のパリティおよびテールビットを、伝送チャンネルの変調記号へマップする。【0069】

第2の符号化/パンクチャリング方式では、とくに、伝送チャンネルのSNRの分布が広がるとき、第1の方式よりも向上した性能を与える。異なる伝送チャンネルにおいて、異なる変調方式および符号化レートを使用するので、各伝送チャンネル上で伝送されるビット数は、一般に、逆方向リンク上で受信機から送信機へ送られる。

[0070]

表1には、O.5ビットのステップサイズを使用して、情報ビット数/変調記号の量子化が示されている。(各伝送チャンネルではなく)各セグメントが、整数の情報ビットを支援するのに必要であるとき、量子化の細分性(quantization granularity)を低減する(すなわち、O.5ビットよりも細かくなる)。 $K_1 \cdot N_1$ が整数であることが必要である

とき、 K_i の整数値がより大きくなると、 N_i のステップサイズをより小さくすることができる。セグメントごとに量子化できるときは、量子化の細分性はさらに低減される。例えば、1つのセグメント内で、1ビットを四捨五入する必要があるときは、適切であれば、次のセグメント内で、1ビットを四捨五入する必要がある。多数の時間スロットにおいて、量子化をする必要があるときも、同様に、量子化の細分性が低減する。

OFDMシステム(とくに、MIMOモードで動作するOFDMシステム)を支援して、伝送チャンネルにおいて異なるSNRを実現するために、共通の基礎符号器(例えば、1/3レートのターボ符号器)と共に、融通の利くパンクチャリング方式を使用して、必要な符号化レートを実現する。この融通の利くパンクチャリング方式を使用して、各セグメントごとに、必要な数のテールおよびパリティビットを得ることができる。高い符号化レートでは(テールおよびパリティビットが保持されているよりも、より多くパンクチャされる)、テールおよびパリティビットが符号器によって生成されると、それらを必要な数だけ保持して、それ以外を捨てることによって、パンクチャリングを効率的に実現する。【0072】

例えば、1セグメントには、20個の16-QAMの変調記号が構成されていて、2.7 5情報ビット/変調記号の伝送を支援するSNRを有する。このセグメントでは、20個の変調記号において、55個の情報ビット(55=20×2.75)が伝送される。各16-QAMの変調記号は、4つの符号化されたビットで形成され、20個の変調記号には、80個の符号化されたビットが必要である。55個の情報ビットを1/3レートの符号器で符号化して、122個のテールおよびパリティビットおよび55個の情報ビットを生成する。これらの122個のテールおよびパリティビットをパンクチャして、セグメントに必要な35個のテールおよびパリティビットを得る。このセグメントには、55個の情報ビットと組合せて、80個の符号化されたビットが構成されている。

[0073]

[0071]

図1を再び参照すると、パンクチャ装置117は、チャンネルインターリーバ116から、インターリーブされた情報およびパリティビットを受信し、テールおよびパリティビットの一部をパンクチャ(すなわち、削除)して、希望の符号化レートを実現し、パンクチャされていない情報、テール、およびパリティビットを一系列の符号化されたビットへ多重化する。情報ビット(系統的ビットとも呼ばれる)をテールおよびパリティビットと共にパンクチャしてもよく、本発明の技術的範囲内である。

[0074]

図3 c は、符号化されたビットの可変のパンクチャリングを行うのに使用されるパンクチャ装置117 \times の1つの実施形態の図である。パンクチャ装置117 \times は、図1のパンクチャ装置117 \times は、図0のパンクチャ装置117 \times は、1つの計数器を使用して、セグメントiにおいて符号器によって生成される Q_i 個のテールおよびパリティビットから、 P_i 個のテールおよびパリティビットを保持するようにパンクチャリングを行なう。

[0075]

パンクチャ装置117x内では、ターボ符号器の2つの構成符号器からのインターリーブされたテールおよびパリティビット y_{INT} および z_{INT} を、スイッチ342の2つの入力へ供給する。スイッチ342は、トグルユニット348からの制御信号に依存して、 y_{INT} のテールおよびパリティビットまたは z_{INT} のテールおよびパリティビットをライン343へ供給する。スイッチ342により、2つのテールおよびパリティビットのストリームを交互にすることによって、2つの構成符号器からのテールおよびパリティビットが等しく選択されることが保証される。

[0076]

第1の計数器352は、モジューローQ加算を行って、その内容がQ-1を越えた後で、ラップアラウンドする。第2の計数器354は、Qのテールおよびパリティビットを(1個分)計数する。各セグメントにおいて、計数器352および354は最初はゼロに設定され、スイッチ342は、アップ位置であり、スイッチ344を閉じて、マルチプレクサを適切に制御する

ことによって、第1のテールまたはパリティビット y_{INTO} がマルチプレクサ346から供給される。各次のクロックサイクルでは、計数器352は、Pをインクリメントされ、計数器354は、1をインクリメントされる。計数器352の値は、決定ユニット356へ供給される。計数器352がモジューローQの演算を経る(すなわち、計数器352の内容がラップアラウンドする)とき、ライン343上のテールまたはパリティビットはスイッチ344を介してマルチプレクサ346へ供給され、次にテールまたはパリティビットを出力された符号化されたビットとして供給する。テールまたはパリティビットがマルチプレクサ346から供給されるたびに、トグルユニット348は制御信号の状態をトグルし、他のテールおよびパリティビットストリームはライン343へ供給される。比較ユニット358によって示されることにより、セグメント内の全ての Q_i 個のテールおよびパリティビットが枯渇するまで、プロセスは続く。

【0077】

他のパンクチャリングパターンを使用してもよく、本発明の技術的範囲内である。良好な性能を得るために、パンクチャされるテールおよびパリティビットの数の平衡を2つの構成符号間でとって(すなわち、ほぼ同数の y_{INT} および z_{INT} のテールおよびパリティビットが選択される)、パンクチャされていないビットを、各セグメントごとに符号ブロック上で比較的に均等に分散させる。

[0078]

ある特定の例において、情報ビット数は、伝送チャンネルの容量よりも少ない。このような場合は、使用可能で、かつ満たされていないビット位置は、符号化されたビットの一部を反復することによって、すなわち他の方式によって、ゼロのパディングで満たされる。 幾つかの方式では、伝送電力も低減できる。

[0079]

グレイマッピング

1つの実施形態では、使用するために選択された各変調方式(例えば、QPSK、16-QAM、64-QAM、など)において、グレイマッピングを使用して、変調方式の信号配列内の点を定める。別途記載するように、グレイマッピングは、誤りの確率がより高い事象におけるビットの誤り数を低減する。

[0080]

図5は、16-QAMの信号配列で、特定のグレイマッピング方式のダイヤグラムである。16-QAMの信号配列には、16個の点が構成されていて、各点は、特定の4ビット値と関係付けられている。グレイマッピングにおいて、4ビット値は、信号配列内の点と関係付けられていて、(水平方向または垂直方向における)隣合う点の値は、1ビット位置が異なる。点の値は、より多くのビット位置分、さらに異なる(例えば、対角方向に隣合う位置の値は、2ビット位置が異なる)。

[0081]

[0082]

受信機ユニットでは、変調記号は、雑音と共に受信され、一般に信号配列内の正確な位置にマップしない。上述の例において、伝送された符号化されたビット("0111")の受信変調記号は、受信機ユニットにおいて点512へマップしないことがある。雑音により、受信変調記号は、信号配列内の別の位置へマップされる。一般に、受信変調記号が、正確な位置の近く(例えば、"0101"、"0011"、"0110"、または"1111"の近く)の位置へマップされる確率は、より高い。したがって、誤りの確率がより高

い事象では、受信変調記号は、正確な点に隣合う点へ誤ってマップされる。信号配列内の 隣り合う点は、1 ビット位置分だけ異なる値を有するので、グレイマッピングは、誤りの 確率がより高い事象における誤りビット数を低減する。

[0083]

図5は、16-QAMの信号配列における特定のグレイマッピング方式を示している。他のグレイマッピング方式を使用してもよく、本発明の技術的範囲内である。他の変調方式(例えば、8-PSK、64-QAM、など)の信号配列も、同様に、あるいは他のグレイマッピング方式でマップされる。32-QAMおよび128-QAMのような変調方式において、完全なグレイマッピング方式が可能でないときは、部分的なグレイマッピング方式を使用する。さらに加えて、グレイマッピングに基づいていないマッピング方式を使用してもよく、本発明の技術的範囲内である。

[0084]

MIMO処理

図6は、MIMOプロセッサ120×の1つの実施形態を示すブロック図であり、MIMOプロセッサ120×は、図1のMIMOプロセッサ120の1つの構成である。変調記号は、多数の周波数サブチャンネル上で、おそらくは多数の送信アンテナから伝送される。MIMOモードで動作するときは、各周波数サブチャンネル上で、各送信アンテナからの伝送は、複製されていないデータを表わす。

[0085]

M I M O プロセッサ120 x 内では、デマルチプレクサ (demultiplexer, DEMUX) 610は、変調記号を受信して、多数のサブチャンネル記号のストリーム、 S_1 ないし S_L ヘデマルチプレックスし、各周波数サブチャンネルごとに、1 本のサブチャンネル記号のストリームを使用して、記号を伝送する。各サブチャンネル記号のストリームは、各サブチャンネルのM I M O プロセッサ612へ供給される。

[0086]

各サブチャンネルのM I MOプロセッサ612は、受信したサブチャンネル記号のストリームを、多数の(すなわち、 N_T 個までの)記号のサブストリームへデマルチプレックスし、各アンテナごとに、1本の記号サブストリームを使用して、変調記号を伝送する。OF D MシステムがM I MOモードで動作するときは、各サブチャンネルのM I MOプロセッサ612は、上述の式(1)にしたがって N_T 個(までの)変調記号を事前調整して、事前調整された変調記号を生成し、その後で伝送する。M I MOモードでは、特定の送信アンテナの特定の周波数サブチャンネルにおける、各事前調整された変調記号は、 N_T 本までの送信アンテナにおける(重み付けされた)変調記号の線形の組合せを表わす。各事前調整された変調記号を生成するために使用される N_T 個(までの)変調記号の各々は、異なる信号配列と関係付けられる。

[0087]

[0088]

M I M Oプロセッサ120xは、変調記号を受信して、処理し、 N_T 個の変調記号ベクトル V_1 ないし V_T を、1送信アンテナに1変調記号ベクトルづつ、供給する。各アンテナの 各時間スロットにおいてL個の事前調整された変調記号を収集し、次数Lの変調記号ベク

トルVを形成する。変調記号ベクトルVの各素子は、変調記号を送るユニークなサブキャリアを有する特定の周波数サブチャンネルと関係付けられている。L個の変調記号を収集したものは、全て互いに直交している。"純粋な"MIMOモードで動作しないときは、変調記号ベクトルの一部は、異なる送信アンテナごとに特定の周波数サブチャンネル上に複製情報を有する。

[0089]

サブチャンネルのMIMOプロセッサ612は、MIMOモードにおいて、全チャンネル状態情報(full channel state information, full-CSI)または部分-CSIの処理を実行するのに必要な処理を行うように設計されている。全CSIには、各周波数サブチャンネルに対する送信アンテナと受信アンテナの全ての対間の伝搬経路(すなわち、振幅および位相)の十分な特徴付けが含まれる。部分CSIには、例えば、部分的なサブチャンネルのSNRが含まれる。CSIの処理は、例えば、使用可能なCSI情報および選択された周波数サブチャンネル、送信アンテナ、などに基づいて実行される。CSIの処理は、選択的に、動的に、イネーブルおよびディスエーブルされる。例えば、CSIの処理は、特定のデータ伝送に対してイネーブルされ、他のデータ伝送に対してディスエーブルされる。CSI処理は、一定の条件、例えば、通信リンクが適切なSNRを有するときに、イネーブルされる。全CSIとは、例えば、通信リンクが適切なSNRを有するときに、イネーブルされる。全CSIおよび部分CSIの処理は、上述の米国特許出願第09/532,491号にさらに詳しく記載されている。

[0090]

図6は、変調器122の1つの実施形態を示している。MIMOプロセッサ120xからの変調記号ベクトル V_1 ないし V_T は、変調器122aないし122tへそれぞれ供給される。図6tに示されている実施形態では、各変調器122には、IFFT620、巡回プレフィックス発生器622、およびアップコンバータ624が構成されている。

[0091]

IFFT620は、逆高速フーリエ変換(inverse fast Fourier transform、IFFT)を使用して、各受信した変調記号ベクトルを、その時間領域表現(OFDM記号と呼ばれる)へ変換する。IFFT620は、任意の数(例えば、8本、16本、32本、など)の周波数サブチャンネル上で、IFFTを実行するように設計することができる。1つの実施形態では、OFDM記号へ変換された各変調記号ベクトルにおいて、巡回プレフィックス発生器622は、OFDM記号の時間領域表現の一部分を反復して、特定のアンテナの伝送符号を形成する。巡回プレフィックスは、伝送記号が、マルチパス遅延拡散と共に、直交性を保持し、劣悪な経路の影響に対する性能の向上を保証する。IFFT620および巡回プレフィックス発生器622の構成は、この技術において知られており、本明細書では詳しく記載されていない。

[0092]

各巡回プレフィックス発生器622からの時間領域表現(すなわち、各アンテナごとの"伝送"符号)は、アップコンバータ624によって処理され、アナログ信号へ変換され、RF周波数へ変調され、RF変調信号を生成するように調整(例えば、増幅およびフィルタ処理)され、RF変調信号は、各アンテナ124から伝送される。

[0093]

OFDM変調については、文献("Multicarrier Modulation for Data Transmission : An Idea Whose Time Has Come", by John A.C. Bingham, IEEE Communications Magazine, May 1990)に記載されており、本明細書ではこれを参考文献として取り上げている。

[0094]

MIMOモード以外で動作するOFDMシステムでは、MIMOプロセッサ120は、取り除かれるか、またはディスエーブルされ、変調記号は、事前調整されることなく、変調記号ベクトルVへまとめられる。次に、このベクトルは変調器122へ供給される。(MIMOモードではなく)伝送ダイバーシティで動作するOFDMシステムでは、デマルチプレクサ614が取り除かれるか、またはディスエーブルされて、(同じ)事前調整された変調記号は、 N_T 個(までの)結合器へ供給される。

[0095]

図2に示されているように、多数の異なる伝送(例えば、音声、シグナリング、データ、パイロット、など)はシステムによって伝送される。これらの伝送の各々には異なる処理が必要である。

図7は、異なる伝送に対して異なる処理を行うことができるシステム110gの実施形態のブロック図である。集合入力データ(例えばシステム110gによって伝送される全情報ビット)が構成されているデータはデマルチプレクサ710へ供給される。デマルチプレクサ710は、入力データを多数(K)のチャンネルデータストリームB₁ ないしB_K ヘデマルチプレックスする。各チャンネルデータストリームは、例えば、シグナリングチャンネル、同報通信チャンネル、音声呼、またはトラヒックデータ伝送に対応する。各チャンネルデータストリームは、各符号器/チャンネルインターリーバ/パンクチャ装置/記号マッピング素子712へ供給され、記号マッピング素子712は、そのデータチャンネルストリームに対して選択された特定の符号化方式を使用してデータを符号化し、特定のインターリービング方式に基づいて符号化されたデータをインターリーブして、インターリーブされた符号ビットをパンクチャして、そのチャンネルデータストリームを伝送するのに使用される伝送チャンネルに対して、インターリーブされたデータを変調記号へマップする。

[0096]

符号化は、チャンネルごとに(すなわち、図7に示されている各チャンネルデータストリーム上で)行うことができる。しかしながら、(図1に示されている)集合入力データ上で、多数のチャンネルデータストリーム上で、チャンネルデータストリームの一部分の上で、1組の周波数サブチャンネルを横切って、1組の部分サブチャンネルを横切って、1組の周波数サブチャンネルおよび空間サブチャンネルを横切って、各周波数サブチャンネルを横切って、各の調記号上で、または時間、空間、および周波数の他のユニット上で、符号化を行ってもよい。

[0097]

各符号器/チャンネルインターリーバ/パンクチャ装置/記号マッピング素子712からの変調記号ストリームは、周波数サブチャンネル上で、かつ各周波数サブチャンネルの空間サブチャンネルを介して伝送される。MIMOプロセッサ120yは、素子712から変調記号ストリームを受信する。各変調記号ストリームに使用されるモードに依存して、MIMOプロセッサ120yは変調記号ストリームを多数のサブチャンネル記号ストリームへデマルチプレックスする。図7に示されている実施形態では、変調記号ストリーム S_1 は、周波数サブチャンネル上で伝送され、変調記号ストリーム S_K はL本の周波数サブチャンネル上で伝送される。各周波数サブチャンネルに対する変調ストリームは、各サブチャンネルのMIMOプロセッサによって処理され、デマルチプレックスされ、図6に示されているやり方と同様のやり方で結合され、各送信アンテナの変調記号ベクトルを形成する。

[0098]

一般に、送信機ユニットは、チャンネルの伝送能力について記述した情報に基づいて、各 伝送チャンネルごとにデータを符号化して、変調する。一般に、この情報は、既に記載し た部分-CSIまたは全-CSIの形式をとる。データ伝送に使用される伝送チャンネル の部分-CSIまたは全-CSIは、一般に受信機ユニットにおいて判断され、送信機ユニットへ報告され、送信機は、情報を使用して、それにしたがって符号化および変調する。本明細書に記載されている技術は、多数の並列伝送チャンネルを支援できるMIMO、OFDM、または他の通信方式(例えば、CDMA方式)によって支援される多数の並列 伝送チャンネルに適用できる。

[0099]

復調および復号化

図8は、システム150の復号化部分についての1つの実施形態のブロック図である。この 実施形態では、ターボ符号器を使用して、伝送前にデータを符号化する。対応して、ター ボ復号器は、受信した変調記号を復号化するのに使用される。

[0100]

図8に示されているように、受信した変調記号は、ビット対数尤度比(log-likelihood ratio, LLR)計算ユニット158×へ供給され、ビットLLR計算ユニット158×は、各変調記号を構成しているビットのLLRを計算する。ターボ復号器は(ビットに相対する)LLRを処理するので、ビットLLR計算ユニット158×は、各受信した符号化されたビットのLLRを供給する。各受信した符号化されたビットのLLRは、受信した符号化されたビットが1である確率によって除算された、受信した符号化されたビットが0である確率の対数である。

[0101]

既に記載したように、M個の符号化されたビット(b_1 , b_2 , . . . , b_M)をまとめて、単一の非二値記号Sを形成し、Sを変調記号T(S)へマップする(すなわち、高次の信号配列へ変調する)。変調記号を、処理して、送信して、受信して、さらに処理して、受信した変調記号R(S)が得られる。受信した変調記号内の符号化されたビット b_m のLLRは、次の式(2)のように計算できる。

[0102]

【数5】

$$LLR(b_m) = \log\left(\frac{P(b_m = 0)}{P(b_m = 1)}\right)$$

$$= \log\left(P(R(S) \mid b_m = 0)\right) - \log\left(P(R(S) \mid b_m = 1)\right)$$

$$= \log\left(\sum_{T(S):b_m = 0} P(R(S) \mid T(S))\right) - \log\left(\sum_{T(S):b_m = 1} P(R(S) \mid T(S))\right)$$

なお $P(R(S) | b_m = 0)$ は、受信記号R(S)に基づくビット b_m がゼロである確率である。LLRの計算には、近似値を使用してもよい。

次に、デパンクチャ装置159は、送信機において削除された(すなわち、パンクチャされた)符号ビットに"消去(erasure)"を挿入する。消去は、一般に、ゼロ("0")の値を有し、これは、Oであるか、または1であるかの確率が等しいパンクチャされたビットを示す。

[0103]

式(2)から、変調記号内の受信した符号化されたビットのLLRが関係付けられる傾向があることに注意すべきである。この相関は、符号化されたビットを変調する前にインターリーブすることによって解消される。図1に示されているように、チャンネルのインターリービングにより、各変調記号内の符号化されたビットの相関が解消されることが好都合である。

[0104]

符号化されたビットのLLRはチャンネルデインターリーバ160へ供給され、送信機において行われたチャンネルインターリービングを相補的なやり方でデインターリーブされる。受信情報、テール、およびパリティビットに対応するチャンネルのデインターリーブされたLLRは、ターボ復号器162×へ供給される。

[0105]

ターボ復号器162xには、加算器810aおよび810b、復号器812aおよび812b、符号インターリーバ814、符号デインターリーバ816、および検出器818が構成されている。1 つの実施形態では、各復号器812は、ソフトー入力/ソフトー出力(soft-input/soft-output, S ISO)の最大事後(maximum a posterior, MAP) 復号器として構成される。

[0106]

加算器810aは、受信した情報ビットのLLR、すなわちLLR(\mathbf{x}')、およびデインターリーバ816からの(1回目の反復では、ゼロに設定されている)外部情報を受信して、

加算し、較正されたLLRを供給する。較正されたLLRは、受信した情報ビットの検出 値のより大きい信頼と関係付けられる。

[0107]

復号器812aは、加算器810aからの較正されたLLRと、第1の構成符号器からの受信したテールおよびパリティビットのLLR、すなわちLLR(y')とを受信し、受信したLLRを復号化して、受信した情報ビットの確率値の補正を示す外部情報を生成する。復号器812aからの外部情報は、加算器810bによって受信情報ビットLLRと加算され、較正されたLLRは符号インターリーバ814へ記憶される。符号インターリーバ814は、ターボ符号器において使用されているのと同じ符号インターリービング(例えば、図3bの符号インターリーバ314と同じ符号インターリービング)を行なう。

[0108]

復号器812bは、インターリーバ814からのインターリーブされたLLRと、第2の構成符号器からの受信したテールおよびパリティビットのLLR、すなわちLLR(z')とを受信し、受信したLLRを復号化して、受信した情報ビットの確率値をさらに補正した外部情報を生成する。復号器812bからの外部情報は、符号デインターリーバ816に記憶され、デインターリーバ816は、デインターリービング方式を行う。デインターリービング方式は、インターリーバ814において使用されているインターリービング方式と相補的である。

[0109]

受信した符号化されたビットのLLRの復号化は、何度も反復される。各反復ごとに、較正されたLLRに対する信頼性は、より大きくなる。全ての復号化の反復が完了した後で、最終的な較正されたLLRを検出器818へ供給し、検出器818は、LLRに基づいて受信した情報ビットの値を供給する。

[0110]

ソフト出力のビタビアルゴリズム (soft output Viterbi algorithm, SOVA) を実行する 復号器のような、SISO MAP復号器のほかに、他のタイプの復号器も使用できる。 復号器の設計は、一般に、送信機において使用される特定のターボ符号化方式に依存する

[0111]

ターボ復号化については、Steven S. Pietrobonによる文献 ("Implementation and Performance of a Turbo/Map Decoder", International Journal of Satellite Communications, Vol. 16, 1998, pp.23-46) により詳しく記載されており、本明細書では、これを参考文献として取り上げている。

[0112]

変調方式および符号化レート

各伝送チャンネルの達成されたSNRは、希望の性能レベル(例えば、1%のFER)において、1変調記号に対する特定数の情報ビット(すなわち、特定の情報ビットレート)を支援する。この情報ビットレートは、多数の異なる変調方式によって支援される。例えば、1.5情報ビット/変調記号のビットレートは、QPSK、8-PSK、16-QAM、またはより高次の変調方式によって支援される。各変調方式では、1変調記号に対して特定数の符号化されたビットを伝送することができる。

[0113]

選択した変調方式に依存して、対応する符号化レートを選択し、必要数の符号化されたビットを、1変調記号に対する情報ビット数に供給する。上述の例において、QPSK、8-PSK、および16-QAMでは、1変調記号に対して2、3、および4個の符号化されたビットをそれぞれ伝送することができる。1.5情報ビット/変調記号の情報ビットレートでは、QPSK、8-PSK、および16-QAMにおいて、3/4、1/2、および3/8の符号化レートを使用して、必要数の符号化されたビットをそれぞれ生成する。したがって、変調方式と符号化レートとの異なる組み合わせは、特定の情報ビットレートを支援するのに使用される。

[0114]

本発明のある特定の実施形態では、支援されるビットレートに対する低次の変調方式と共に、"微弱な"二値符号(すなわち、高符号化レート)を使用する。一連のシミュレーションに通して、より低次の変調方式を、より微弱な符号と組合せて使用することにより、より高次の変調方式を、より強力な符号と組合せて使用するよりも、より高い性能が得られることが分かった。この結果について、次に記載する。AWGNチャンネル内の二値ターボ符号のLLRの復号化の尺度は、ターボ復号化アルゴリズムにおいてほぼ最適である。しかしながら、グレイマップの高次の変調方式では、各受信ビットに対してではなく、各受信変調記号に対して、最適なLLRの尺度を生成する。次に、符号のLLRの尺度を分解して、二値符号復号器に対するビットLLRの尺度を得る。分解処理中に、幾つかの情報が失われ、ビット復号尺度を使用しても、最適性能が得られない。より低次の変調方式では、対応して、1符号当りのビット数が低減し、分解損失が低減し、したがって対応するより高次の変調方式よりも、より良い性能が得られる。

[0115]

本発明の1つの態様にしたがって、一定のスペクトル効率を達成するために、適切な変調方式において、n/(n+1)以上、n/(n+2)以内(nは、1変調記号に対する情報ビット数)の符号化レートの符号を使用する。この符号化レートは、可変のパンクチャリング方式と組合せて、固定符号(例えば、上述の1/3レートのターボ符号)を使用して、容易に達成することができる。高い符号化レートを達成するために、テールおよびパリティビットを多数パンクチャして、パンクチャされていないテールおよびパリティビットを情報ビット上に均等に分散させる。

[0116]

フレーミング

多くの通信システムでは、データパケット(すなわち、論理フレーム)を固定サイズで画定することが好都合である。例えば、システムは、1024、2048、および4096ビットを有する3つの異なるパケットを画定する。これらの画定されたデータパケットにより、送信機と受信機の両者において処理の一部が簡単になる。

[0117]

OFDMシステムでは、物理的なフレームは、(1)整数のOFDM記号、(2)伝送チャンネル上の特定数の変調記号、または(3)他の単位を収めるように画定される。既に記載したように、通信リンクは時間にしたがって変化するために、伝送チャンネルのSNRは時間にしたがって変化する。その結果、各伝送チャンネルにおいて各時間スロット上で伝送される情報ビット数は、時間にしたがって変化する可能性が高く、各物理的フレーム内の情報ビット数も、時間にしたがって変化する可能性が高くなる。

[0118]

1つの実施形態では、論理フレームは、OFDM記号とは無関係に画定される。この実施形態では、各論理フレームの情報ビットは、符号化/パンクチャされ、論理フレームの符号化されたビットはまとめられて、変調記号へマップされる。1つの簡単な構成では、伝送チャンネルは、連続番号を付される。次に、符号化されたビットを使用して、必要な数の変調記号を伝送チャンネルの順番に形成する。変調記号の境界が始端および終端となるように、論理フレーム(すなわち、データパケット)を画定する。この構成では、論理フレームは、OFDM記号にまたがり、さらに、OFDM記号の境界を横切る。さらに加えて、各OFDM記号には、多数のデータパケットからの符号化されたビットが収められる

[0119]

別の実施形態では、論理フレームは、物理的単位に基づいて画定される。例えば、論理フレームには、(1)伝送チャンネル上の多数の変調記号、(2)OFDM記号、または(3)他のやり方で画定される多数の変調記号を含むように画定される。

高次の変調においてパンクチャされた二値のターボ符号およびグレイマッピング (binary Turbo code and Gray mapping, BTC-GM) を使用することで、多数の長所が得られる。よ

り最適であるが、より複雑なターボトレリス符号化変調(Turbo trellis coded modulati on, TTCM)方式よりも、BTC-GM方式は、実行するのがより簡単であるが、TTCM により近い性能を実行できる。可変のパンクチャリングを単に調節することによって、異なる符号化レートを実行することが簡単であるので、BTC-GM方式では、高度の融通性も得られる。BTC-GM方式は、異なるパンクチャリングパラメータのもとで、ロバストな性能も与える。さらに加えて、現在使用可能な二値ターボ復号器を使用して、受信機の構造を簡単にする。しかしながら、ある特定の実施形態では、他の符号化方式も使用でき、本発明の技術的範囲内である。

[0120]

好ましい実施形態についてのこれまでの記述は、当業者が本発明を作成または使用できるようにするために与えられている。これらの実施形態に対する種々の変更は、当業者には容易に分かり、本明細書において定義されている一般的な原理は、発明の能力を使用することなく、他の実施形態に適用される。したがって、本発明は、本発明に示されている実施形態に制限されることを意図されていないが、本明細書に開示されている原理および新規な特徴に一致する最も広い技術的範囲にしたがうことを意図されている。

【図面の簡単な説明】

[0121]

【図1】本発明の種々の態様および実施形態を実行することができる多重入力多重出力(MIMO)通信システムの図。

【図2】MIMOシステムにおいて N_T 本中の1本の送信アンテナからのOFDM伝送をグラフで示す図。

【図3a】並列連結された畳込み符号器の図。

[0122]

【図3b】並列連結された畳込み符号器の図。

【図3 c 】符号化されたビットの種々のパンクチャリングを行うために使用される、パンクチャ装置およびマルチプレクサの1つの実施形態を示す図。

【図4a】データ伝送に必要な符号化されたビットを生成するための符号化/パンクチャリング方式であって、特定の基礎符号と共通のパンクチャリング方式とを使用する符号化/パンクチャリング方式のフローチャート。

[0123]

【図4 b】データ伝送に必要な符号化されたビットを生成するための符号化/パンクチャリング方式であって、特定の基礎符号と可変のパンクチャリング方式とを使用する符号化/パンクチャリング方式のフローチャート。

【図5】16-QAMの信号配列および特定のグレイマッピング方式の図。

[0124]

【図6】MIMOプロセッサの1つの実施形態のブロック図。

【図7】異なる伝送に対して異なる処理を行うことができるシステムの1つの実施形態のブロック図。

【図8】受信システムの復号化部分についての1つの実施形態のブロック図。

【符号の説明】

[0125]

100、110、150 システム、

124、152 アンテナ、

322 構成符号器、

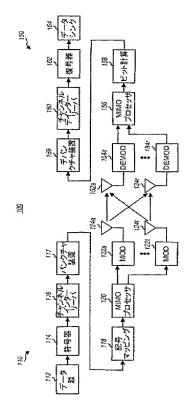
332 遅延素子、

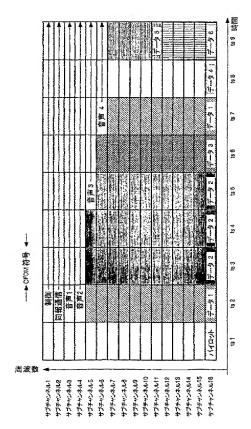
334 加算器、

336、342、344 スイッチ、

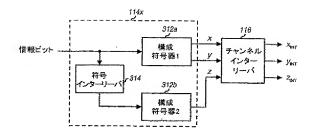
343 ライン。

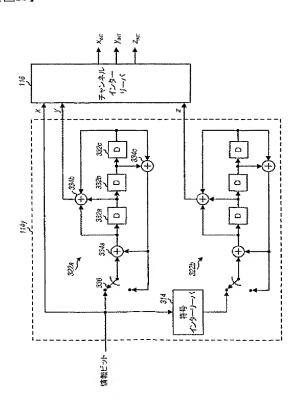
【図1】 【図2】



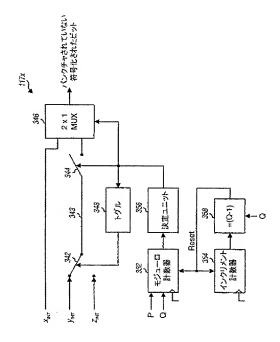


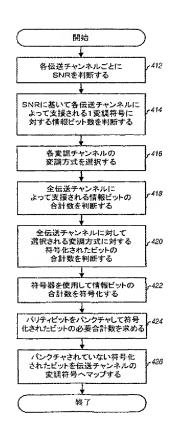
【図3a】 【図3b】



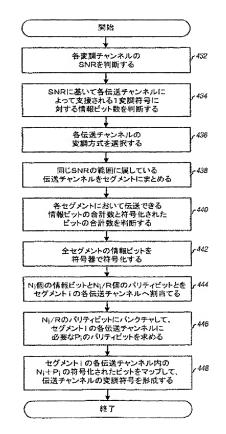


【図3c】 【図4a】



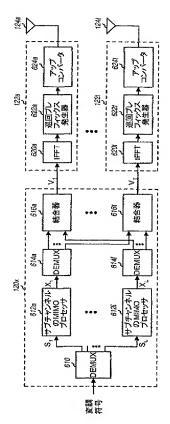


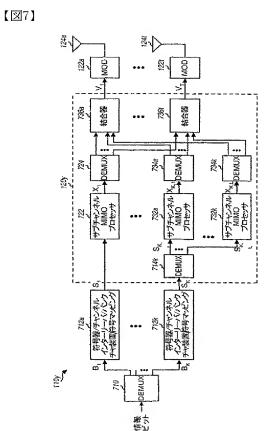
【図4b】 【図5】



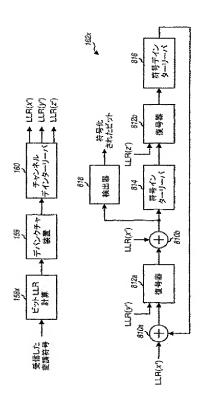
0000	0001 •	0011	Ð010 ●
0100	0101	0111 • 512	0#10 •
1100	1101	1111	1110
1000	1001	1011	1010

【図6】





【図8】



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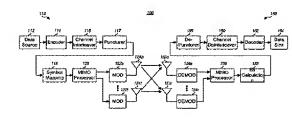
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(54) Tate: CODING SCHEME FOR A WIRELESS COMMUNICATION SYSTEM



(57) Abstract: Ceiling techniques iter a (e.g., OFDM) communication system capable of transmitting date on a number of transmission channels at different information bit rates based on the channels' achieved SNR. A base code is used in combination with common or variable parametric par

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CODING SCHEME FOR A WIRELESS COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

BACKGROUND

I. Field

The present invention relates to data communication. More particularly, the present invention relates to a novel, flexible, and efficient coding scheme for encoding data for transmission on multiple transmission channels with different transmission capabilities.

II. Description of the Related Art

Wireless communication systems are widely deployed to provide various types of communication such as voice, data, and so on. These systems may be based on code division multiple access (CDMA), time division multiple access (TDMA), orthogonal frequency division modulation (OFDM), or some other modulation techniques. OFDM systems may provide high performance 20 for some channel environments.

In an OFDM system, the operating frequency band is effectively partitioned into a number of "frequency subchannels", or frequency bins. Each subcharmel is associated with a respective subcarrier upon which data is modulated, and may be viewed as an independent "transmission channef". 25 Typically, the data to be transmitted (i.e., the information bits) is encoded with a particular coding scheme to generate coded bits. For a high-order modulation scheme (e.g., QPSK, QAM, and so on), the coded bits are grouped into non-binary symbols that are then used to modulate the subcarriers.

The frequency subchannels of an OFDM system may experience 30 different link conditions (e.g., different fading and multipath effects) and may achieve different signal-to-noise-plus-interference ratio (SNR). Consequently, the number of information bits per modulation symbol (i.e., the information bit rate) that may be transmitted on each subchannel for a particular level of performance may be different from subchannel to subchannel. Moreover, the 35 link conditions typically vary with time. As a result, the supported bit rates for the subchannels also vary with time.

The different transmission capabilities of the frequency subchannels plus the time-variant nature of the capabilities make it challenging to provide an effective coding scheme capable of encoding the supported number of

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information bits/modulation symbol to provide the required coded bits for the subchannels.

Accordingly, a high performance, efficient, and flexible coding scheme that may be used to encode data for transmission on multiple subchannels with different transmission capabilities is highly desirable.

SUMMARY

Various aspects of the present invention provides efficient and effective coding techniques for a communication system capable of transmitting data on a number of "transmission channels" at different information bit rates based on the channels' achieved SNR. A number of coding/puncturing schemes may be used to generate the required coded bits (i.e., the information, tail, and parity bits, if a Turbo code is used). In a first coding/puncturing scheme, a particular base code and common puncturing is used for all transmission channels (e.g., all frequency subchannels in an OFDM system, or spatial subchannels of all frequency subchannels in an OFDM system with multiple input/multiple output antennas (MIMO), as described below). In a second coding/puncturing scheme, the same base code but variable puncturing is used for the transmission channels. The variable puncturing can be used to provide different coding rates for the transmission channels. The coding rate for each transmission channel is dependent on the information bit rate and the modulation scheme selected for the channel.

An embodiment of the invention provides a method for preparing data for transmission on a number of transmission channels in a communication system, e.g., an orthogonal frequency division modulation (OFDM) system. Each transmission channel is operable to transmit a respective sequence of modulation symbols. In accordance with the method, the number of information bits per modulation symbol supported by each transmission channel is determined (e.g., based on the channel's SNR). A modulation scheme is then identified for each transmission channel such that the determined number of information bits per modulation symbol is supported. Based on the supported number of information bits per modulation symbol and the identified modulation scheme, the coding rate for each transmission channel is determined. At least two transmission channels are associated with different coding rates because of different transmission capabilities.

Thereafter, a number of information bits is encoded in accordance with a particular encoding scheme to provide a number of coded bits. If a Turbo code

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is used, a number of tail and parity bits are generated for the information bits (the coded bits include the information bits, tail bits, and parity bits). The coded bits may be interleaved in accordance with a particular interleaving scheme. For ease of implementation, the interleaving may be performed prior to puncturing. The coded bits (e.g., the tail and parity bits, if a Turbo code is used) are then punctured in accordance with a particular puncturing scheme to provide a number of unpunctured coded bits for the transmission channels. The puncturing is adjusted to achieve different coding rates needed by the transmission channels. As an alternative, the puncturing may also be 10 performed prior to interleaving.

Non-binary symbols are then formed for the transmission channels. Each non-binary symbol includes a group of interleaved and unpunctured coded bits and is mapped a respective modulation symbol. The specific number of coded bits in each non-binary symbol is dependent on the channel's modulation scheme. For a multiple-input multiple-output (MIMO) system capable of transmitting on a number of spatial subchannels for each frequency subchannel, the modulation symbols for each frequency subchannel may be pre-conditioned prior to transmission, as described below.

The invention provides methods and system elements that implement 20 various aspects, embodiments, and features of the invention, as described in further detail below.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

25 The features, nature, and advantages of the present invention will become more apparent from the detailed description set forth below when taken in conjunction with the drawings in which like reference characters identify correspondingly throughout and wherein:

FIG. 1 is a diagram of a multiple-input multiple-output (MIMO) 30 communication system capable of implementing various aspects and embodiments of the invention;

FIG. 2 is a diagram that graphically illustrates an OFDM transmission from one of $N_{\rm r}$ transmit antennas in the MIMO system;

FIGS. 3A and 3B are diagrams of a parallel concatenated convolutional 35 encoder;

FIG. 3C is a diagram of an embodiment of a puncturer and multiplexer, which may be used to provide variable puncturing of coded bits;

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FIGS, 4A and 4B are flow diagrams of two coding/puncturing schemes for generating the required coded bits for a data transmission, which utilize a particular base code but common and variable puncturing schemes, respectively;

FIG. 5 is a diagram of a signal constellation for 16-QAM and a specific Gray mapping scheme;

FIG. 6 is a block diagram of an embodiment of a MIMO processor;

FIG. 7 is a block diagram of an embodiment of a system capable of providing different processing for different transmissions; and

FIG. 8 is a block diagram of an embodiment of the decoding portion of a receiving system.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE SPECIFIC EMBODIMENTS

15 FIG. 1 is a diagram of a multiple-input multiple-output (MIMO) communication system 100 capable of implementing various aspects and embodiments of the invention. Communication system 100 can be designed to implement the coding schemes described herein. System 100 can further be operated to employ a combination of antenna, frequency, and temporal 20 diversity to increase spectral efficiency, improve performance, and enhance flexibility. Increased spectral efficiency is characterized by the ability to transmit more bits per second per Hertz (bps/Hz) when and where possible to better utilize the available system bandwidth. Improved performance may be quantified, for example, by a lower bit-error-rate (BER) or frame-error-rate 25 (FER) for a given link signal-to-noise-plus-interference ratio (SNR). And enhanced flexibility is characterized by the ability to accommodate multiple users having different and typically disparate requirements. These goals may be achieved, in part, by employing a high performance and efficient coding scheme, multi-carrier modulation, time division multiplexing (TDM), multiple transmit and/or receive antennas, other techniques, or a combination thereof. The features, aspects, and advantages of the invention are described in further

As shown in FIG. 1, communication system 100 includes a first system 110 in communication with a second system 150. Within system 110, a data source 112 provides data (i.e., information bits) to an encoder 114 that encodes the data in accordance with a particular coding scheme. The encoding increases the reliability of the data transmission. The coded bits are then provided to a channel interleaver 116 and interleaved (i.e., reordered) in

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accordance with a particular interleaving scheme. The interleaving provides time and frequency diversity for the coded bits, permits the data to be transmitted based on an average SNR for the subchannels used for the data transmission, combats fading, and further removes correlation between coded bits used to form each modulation symbol, as described below. The interleaved bits are then punctured (i.e., deleted) to provide the required number of coded bits. The encoding, channel interleaving, and puncturing are described in further detail below. The unpunctured coded bits are then provided to a symbol mapping element 118.

In an OFDM system, the operating frequency band is effectively partitioned into a number of "frequency subchannels" (i.e., frequency bins). At each "time slot" (i.e., a particular time interval that may be dependent on the bandwidth of the frequency subchannel), a "modulation symbol" may be transmitted on each frequency subchannel. As described in further detail 15 below, the OFDM system may be operated in a MIMO mode in which multiple (N_{π}) transmit antennas and multiple (N_{π}) receive antennas are used for a data transmission. The MIMO channel may be decomposed into No independent channels, with $N_c \le N_\tau$ and $N_c \le N_s$. Each of the N_c independent channels is also referred to as a "spatial subchannel" of the MIMO channel, which 20 corresponds to a dimension. In the MIMO mode, increased dimensionality is achieved and N_c modulation symbols may be transmitted on N_c spatial subchannels of each frequency subchannel at each time slot. In an OFDM system not operated in the MIMO mode, there is only one spatial subchannel. Each frequency subchannel/spatial subchannel may also be referred to as a "transmission channel". The MIMO mode and spatial subchannel are described in further detail below.

The number of information bits that may be transmitted for each modulation symbol for a particular level of performance is dependent on the SNR of the transmission channel. For each transmission channel, symbol 30 mapping element 118 groups a set of unpunctured coded bits to form a non-binary symbol for that transmission channel. The non-binary symbol is then mapped to a modulation symbol, which represents a point in a signal constellation corresponding to the modulation scheme selected for the transmission channel. The bit grouping and symbol mapping are performed for all transmission channels, and for each time slot used for data transmission. The modulation symbols for all transmission channels are then provided to a MIMO processor 120.

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Depending on the particular "spatial" diversity being implemented (if any), MIMO processor 120 may demultiplex, pre-condition, and combine the received modulation symbols. The MIMO processing is described in further detail below. For each transmit antenna, MIMO processor 120 provides a stream of modulation symbol vectors, one vector for each time slot. Each modulation symbol vector includes the modulation symbols for all frequency subchannels for a given time slot. Each stream of modulation symbol vectors is received and modulated by a respective modulator (MOD) 122, and transmitted via an associated antenna 124.

In the embodiment shown in FIG. 1, receiving system 150 includes a number of receive antennas 152 that receive the transmitted signals and provide the received signals to respective demodulators (DEMOD) 154. Each demodulator 154 performs processing complementary to that performed at modulator 122. The demodulated symbols from all demodulators 154 are 15 provided to a MIMO processor 156 and processed in a complementary manner as that performed at MIMO processor 120. The received symbols for the transmission channels are then provided to a bit calculation unit 158 that performs processing complementary to that performed by symbol mapping element 118 and provides values indicative of the received bits. Erasures (e.g., 20 zero value indicatives) are then inserted by a de-puncturer 159 for coded bits punctured at system 110. The de-punctured values are then deinterleaved by a channel deinterleaver 160 and further decoded by a decoder 162 to generate decoded bits, which are then provided to a data sink 164. The channel deinterleaving, de-puncturing, and decoding are complementary to the channel 25 interleaving, puncturing, and encoding performed at the transmitter.

Fig. 2 is a diagram that graphically illustrates an OFDM transmission from one of N_r transmit antennas in a MIMO system. In Fig. 2, the horizontal axis represents time and the vertical axis represents frequency. In this specific example, the transmission channel includes 16 frequency subchannels and is 30 used to transmit a sequence of OFDM symbols, with each OFDM symbol covering all 16 frequency subchannels. A time division multiplexing (TDM) structure is also illustrated in which the data transmission is partitioned into time slots, with each time slot having a particular duration. For the example shown in Fig. 2, the time slot is equal to the length of one modulation symbol.

The available frequency subchannels may be used to transmit signaling, voice, packet data, and so on. In the specific example shown in FfG. 2, the modulation symbol at time slot 1 corresponds to pilot data, which may be periodically transmitted to assist the receiver units synchronize and perform

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channel estimation. Other techniques for distributing pilot data over time and frequency may also be used. Transmission of the pilot modulation symbol typically occurs at a particular rate, which is usually selected to be fast enough to permit accurate tracking of variations in the communication link.

The time slots not used for pilot transmissions can be used to transmit various types of data. For example, frequency subchannels 1 and 2 may be reserved for the transmission of control and broadcast data to the receiver units. The data on these subchannels is generally intended to be received by all receiver units. However, some of the messages on the control channel may be 10 user specific, and may be encoded accordingly.

Voice data and packet data may be transmitted in the remaining frequency subchannels. For the example shown, subchannel 3 at time slots 2 through 9 is used for voice call 1, subchannel 4 at time slots 2 through 9 is used for voice call 2, subchannel 5 at time slots 5 through 9 is used for voice call 3, 15 and subchannel 6 at time slots 7 through 9 is used for voice call 5.

The remaining available frequency subchannels and time slots may be used for transmissions of traffic data. A particular data transmission may occur over multiple subchannels and/or multiple time slots, and multiple data transmissions may occur within any particular time slot. A data transmission 20 may also occur over non-contiguous time slots.

In the example shown in FIG. 2, data 1 transmission uses frequency subchannels 5 through 16 at time slot 2 and subchannels 7 through 16 at time slot 7, data 2 transmission uses subchannels 5 through 16 at time slots 3 and 4 and subchannels 6 through 16 at time slots 5, data 3 transmission uses subchannels 6 through 16 at time slot 6, data 4 transmission uses subchannels 7 through 16 at time slot 8, data 5 transmission uses subchannels 7 through 11 at time slot 9, and data 6 transmission uses subchannels 12 through 16 at time slot 9. Data 1 through 6 transmissions can represent transmissions of traffic data to one or more receiver units.

To provide the transmission flexibility and achieve high performance and efficiency, each frequency subchannel at each time slot for each transmit anterna may be viewed as an independent unit of transmission (a modulation symbol) that may be used to transmit any type of data such as pilot, signaling, broadcast, voice, traffic data, some other data type, or a combination thereof. 35 Flexibility, performance, and efficiency may further be achieved by allowing for independence among the modulation symbols, as described below. For example, each modulation symbol may be generated from a modulation

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scheme (e.g., M-PSK, M-QAM, or some other scheme) that results in the best use of the resource at that particular time, frequency, and space.

MIMO System

In a terrestrial communications system (e.g., a cellular system, a broadcast system, a multi-channel multi-point distribution system (MMDS) system, and others), an RF modulated signal from a transmitter unit may reach the receiver unit via a number of transmission paths. The characteristics of the transmission paths typically vary over time due to a number of factors. If more than one transmit or receive antenna is used, and if the transmission paths between the transmit and receive antennas are linearly independent (i.e., one transmission is not formed as a linear combination of the other transmissions), which is generally true to at least an extent, then the likelihood of correctly receiving the transmitted signal increases as the number of antennas increases.

15 Generally, as the number of transmit and receive antennas increases, diversity increases and performance improves.

A MIMO communication system such as the one shown in FIG. 1 employs antermas at both the transmit and receive ends of the communication link. These transmit and receive antennas may be used to provide various forms of "spatial diversity", including "transmit" diversity and "receive" diversity. Spatial diversity is characterized by the use of multiple transmit antennas and one or more receive antennas. Transmit diversity is characterized by the transmission of data over multiple transmit antennas. Typically, additional processing is performed on the data transmitted from the transmit antennas to achieved the desired diversity. For example, the data transmitted from different transmit antennas may be delayed or reordered in time, coded and interleaved across the available transmit antennas, and so on. Receive diversity is characterized by the reception of the transmitted signals on multiple receive antennas, and diversity is achieved by simply receiving the signals via different signal paths.

Spatial diversity may be used to improve the reliability of the communication link with or without increasing the link capacity. This may be achieved by transmitting or receiving data over multiple paths via multiple antennas. Spatial diversity may be dynamically selected based on the characteristics of the communication link to provide the required performance. For example, higher degree of spatial diversity may be provided for some types of communication (e.g., signaling), for some types of services (e.g., voice), for

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some communication link characteristics (e.g., low SNR), or for some other conditions or considerations.

The data may be transmitted from multiple antennas and/or on multiple frequency subchannels to obtain the desired diversity. For example, data may 5 be transmitted on: (1) one subchannel from one antenna, (2) one subchannel (e.g., subchannel 1) from multiple antennas, (3) one subchannel from all $N_{\rm r}$ antennas, (4) a set of subchannels (e.g., subchannels 1 and 2) from one antenna, (5), a set of subchannels from multiple antennas, (6) a set of subchannels from all $N_{\rm r}$ antennas, or (7) a set of channels from a set of antennas (e.g., subchannel 10 1 from antennas 1 and 2 at one time slot, subchannels 1 and 2 from antenna 2 at another time slot, and so on). Thus, any combination of subchannels and antennas may be used to provide antenna and frequency diversity.

In the MIMO communication system, the multi-input multi-output channel can be decomposed into a set of N_c independent spatial subchannels. The number of such spatial subchannels is less than or equal to the lesser of the number of the transmitting antennas and the number of receiving antennas (i.e., N_c ≤ N₇ and N_c ≤ N₃). If H is the N₈ x N₇ matrix that gives the channel response for the N₇ transmit antennas and the N₈ receive antennas at a specific time, and x is the N₇-vector inputs to the channel, then the received signal can 20 be expressed as:

$$y = Hx + n$$
,

where \underline{n} is an N_{π} -vector representing noise plus interference. In one embodiment, the eigenvector decomposition of the Hermitian matrix formed by the product of the channel matrix with its conjugate-transpose can be expressed as:

$$\mathbf{H}^*\mathbf{H} = E\Lambda E^* \ ,$$

where the symbol "" denotes conjugate-transpose, E is the eigenvector matrix, and Λ is a diagonal matrix of eigenvalues, both of dimension $N_{\!_T} N_{\!_T}$

The transmitter converts (i.e., pre-conditions) a set of N_{τ} modulation symbols \underline{b} using the eigenvector matrix E. The transmitted modulation symbols from the N_{τ} transmit antennes can be expressed as:

$$\underline{\mathbf{x}} = E\mathbf{b}$$
,

For all antennas, the pre-conditioning of the modulation symbols can be achieved by a matrix multiply operation expressed as:

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$$\begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ M \\ x_{N_1} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} e_{11}, & e_{12}, & e_{1N_T} \\ e_{21}, & e_{22}, & e_{2N_T} \\ e_{N_T1}, & e_{N_T2}, & e_{N_NN_T} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} h_1 \\ h_2 \\ M \\ h_N \end{bmatrix}$$
Eq (1)

where b_1,b_2,\ldots and b_N are respectively the modulation symbols for a particular frequency subchannel at transmit antennas $1,2,\ldots N_r$, where each modulation symbol can be generated using, for example, M-PSK, M-QAM, and so on, as described below;

E = is the eigenvector matrix related to the transmission characteristics from transmit antennas to the receive antennas; and

 $\mathbf{x}_y,\,\mathbf{x}_y,\,\dots\,\mathbf{x}_y,$ are the pre-conditioned modulation symbols, which can be expressed as:

$$\begin{split} 10 & x_1 = b_1 \cdot e_{11} + b_2 \cdot e_{12} + \dots + b_{N_T} \cdot e_{1N_T} \ , \\ & x_2 = b_1 \cdot e_{21} + b_2 \cdot e_{22} + \dots + b_{N_T} \cdot e_{2N_T} \ , \text{ and} \\ & x_{N_T} = b_1 \cdot e_{N_T} + b_2 \cdot e_{N_T} + \dots + b_{N_T} \cdot e_{N_TN_T} \ . \end{split}$$

The received signal may be expressed as:

15 The receiver performs a channel-matched-filter operation, followed by multiplication by the right eigenvectors. The result of the channel-matchedfilter operation is the vector χ, which can be expressed as:

$$\mathbf{z} = \mathbf{E}^{\dagger}\mathbf{H}^{\dagger}\mathbf{H}\mathbf{E}\mathbf{\hat{p}} + \mathbf{E}^{\dagger}\mathbf{H}^{\dagger}\mathbf{\hat{p}} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{\hat{p}} + \hat{\mathbf{n}}$$
,

where the new noise term has covariance that can be expressed as:

20
$$E(\hat{\underline{n}}\hat{\underline{n}}^*) = E(E^*\mathbf{H}^*\underline{\mathbf{m}}^*\mathbf{H}E) = E^*\mathbf{H}^*\mathbf{H}E = \Lambda,$$

i.e., the noise components are independent and have variance given by the eigenvalues. The SNR of the i^a component of z is λ_i , the i^a diagonal element of Λ .

An embodiment of the MIMO processing is described in further detail

25 below and in U.S Patent Application Serial No. 09/532,491, entitled "HIGH
EFFICIENCY, HIGH PERFORMANCE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM
EMPLOYING MULTI-CARRIER MODULATION," filed March 22, 2000,

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assigned to the assignee of the present application and incorporated herein by reference.

Each of the N_c spatial subchannels in the MIMO channel as described in the above embodiment is also referred to as an eigenmode if these channels are independent of each other. For the MIMO mode, one modulation symbol can be transmitted on each of the eigenmodes in each frequency subchannel. Since the SNR may be different for each eigenmode, the number of bits that may be transmitted over each eigenmode may also be different. As noted above, each eigenmode of each frequency subchannel is also referred to as a transmission that may be channel.

In other embodiments, the spatial subchannels can be created differently. For example, a spatial subchannel can be defined as the transmissions from one transmitter antenna to all of the receiver antennas.

As used herein, the MIMO mode includes full channel state information (full-CSI) and partial-CSI processing modes. For both full-CSI and partial-CSI, additional transmission paths are provided via spatially separable subchannels. Full-CSI processing utilizes eigenmodes, as described above. Partial-CSI processing does not utilize eigenmodes, and may involve providing to the transmitter unit (e.g., via feeding back on the reverse link) the SNR for each transmission channel (i.e., receive diversity port), and coding accordingly based on the received SNR.

A number of formulations may be utilized at the receiver unit to provide the requisite information for partial-CSI, including linear and non-linear forms of zero-forcing, channel correlation matrix inversion (CCMI), and minimum mean square error (MMSE), as is known in the art. For example, the derivation of SNRs for a non-linear zero-forcing (partial-CSI) MIMO case is described by P.W. Wolniansky et al. in a paper entitled "V-BLAST: An Architecture for Realizing Very High Data Rates Over the Rich-Scattering Wireless Channel," Proc. IEEE ISSSE-98, Pisa, Italy, Sept. 30, 1998, and incorporated herein by reference. The eigenvalues from a MIMO formulation are related to the SNRs of the eigenmodes for the full-CSI case. Non-MIMO cases can use an assortment of methods, as is known in the art.

Each transmission channel is associated with a SNR that may be known to both the transmitter and receiver. In this case, the modulation and coding parameters of each modulation symbol can be determined based on the SNR of the corresponding transmission channel. This allows for efficient use of the available frequency subchannels and eigenmodes.

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Table 1 lists the number of information bits that may be transmitted in each modulation symbol for a particular level of performance (e.g., 1% frame-error rate, or % FER) for various SNR ranges. For each SNR range, Table 1 also lists a particular modulation scheme selected for use with that SNR range, the number of coded bits that may be transmitted for each modulation symbol for the selected modulation scheme, and the coding rate used to obtain the required number of coded bits/modulation symbol given the supported number of information bits/modulation symbol.

Table 1 lists one combination of modulation scheme and coding rate for each SNR range. The supported bit rate for each transmission channel may be achieved using any one of a number of possible combinations of coding rate and modulation scheme. For example, one information bit per symbol may be achieved using (1) a coding rate of 1/2 and QFSK modulation, (2) a coding rate of 1/3 and 8-TSK modulation, (3) a coding rate of 1/4 and 16-QAM, or (4) some other combination of coding rate and modulation scheme. In Table 1, QPSK, 16-QAM, and 64-QAM are used for the listed SNR ranges. Other modulation schemes such as 8-PSK, 32-QAM, 128-QAM, and so on, may also be employed and are within the scope of the invention.

Table 1

SNR Range	# of Information Bits/Symbol	Modulation Symbol	# of Coded Bits/Symbol	Coding Rate
1,5-4.4	1	QPSK	2	1/2
4.4 - 6.4	1.5	QPSK	2	3/4
6.4 - 8.35	2	I6-QAM	4	1/2
8.35 10.4	2.5	16-QAM	4	5/8
10.4 - 12.3	3	16-QAM	4	3/4
12.3 - 14.15	3.5	64-QAM	6	7/12
14.15 15.55	4	64-QAM	6	2/3
15.55 - 17.35	4.5	64-QAM	6	3/4
> 17.35	5	64-QAM	6	5/6

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For clarity, various aspects of the invention are described for an OFDM system and, in many instances, for an OFDM system operating in a MIMO mode. However, the encoding and processing techniques described herein may generally be applied to various communication systems such as, for example, (1) an OFDM system operating without MIMO, (2) a MIMO system operating without OFDM (i.e., operating based on a single frequency

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subchannel, i.e., a single RF carrier, but multiple spatial subchannels), (3) a MIMO system operating with OFDM, and (4) others. OFDM is simply one technique for subdividing a wideband channel into a number of orthogonal frequency subchannels.

Encoding

FIG. 3A is a block diagram of an embodiment of a parallel concatenated convolutional encoder 114x, which is often referred to as a Turbo encoder. Turbo encoder 114x represents one implementation of the forward error correction (FEC) portion of encoder 114 in FIG. 1 and may be used to encode data for transmission over one or more transmission channels.

The encoding within encoder 114 may include error correction coding or error detection coding, or both, which are used to increase the reliability of the link. The encoding may include, for example, cyclic redundancy check (CRC) coding, convolutional coding, Turbo coding, Trellis coding, block coding (e.g., Reed-Solomon coding), other types of coding, or a combination thereof. For a wireless communication system, a packet of data may be initially encoded with a particular CRC code, and the CRC bits are appended to the data packet. Additional overhead bits may also be appended to the data packet to form a formatted data packet, which is then encoded with a convolutional or Turbo code. As used herein, "information bits" refer to bits provided to the convolutional or Turbo encoder, including transmitted data bits and bits used to provide error detection or correction capability for the transmitted bits.

As shown in FIG. 3A, Turbo encoder 114x includes two constituent encoders 312a and 312b, and a code interleaver 314. Constituent encoder 312a receives and encodes the information bits, x, in accordance with a first constituent code to generate a first sequence of tail and parity bits, y. Code interleaver 314 receives and interleaves the information bits in accordance with a particular interleaving scheme. Constituent encoder 312b receives and encodes the interleaved bits in accordance with a second constituent code to generate a second sequence of tail and parity bits, z. The information bits, tail bits, and parity bits from encoders 312a and 312b are provided to the next processing element (channel interleaver 116).

FIG. 3B is a diagram of an embodiment of a Turbo encoder 114y, which 35 is one implementation of Turbo encoder 114x and may also be used within encoder 114 in FIG. 1. In this example, Turbo encoder 114y is a rate 1/3 encoder that provides two parity bits, y and z, for each information bit x.

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In the embodiment shown in FIG. 3B, each constituent encoder 322 of Turbo encoder 114y implements the following transfer function for the constituent code:

$$G(D) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \frac{n(D)}{d(D)} \end{bmatrix} ,$$

5 where

$$n(D) \approx 1 + D + D^2$$
, and
$$d(D) = 1 + D^2 + D^3$$

Other constituent codes may also be used and are within the scope of the invention.

Each constituent encoder 322 includes a number of series coupled delay elements 332, a number of modulo-2 adders 334, and a switch 336. Initially, the states of delay elements 332 are set to zeros and switch 336 is in the up position. Then, for each information bit in a data packet, adder 334a performs modulo-2 addition of the information bit with the output bit from adder 334c and provides the result to delay element 332a. Adder 334b receives and performs modulo-2 addition of the bits from adder 334a and delay elements 332a and 332c, and provides the parity bit y. Adder 334c performs modulo-2 addition of the bits from delay elements 332b and 332c.

After all N information bits in the data packet have been encoded, switch 336 is moved to the down position and three zero ("0") bits are provided to the 20 constituent encoder 322a. Constituent encoder 322a then encodes the three zero bits and provides three tail systematic bits and three tail parity bits.

For each packet of N information bits, constituent encoder 322a provides N information bits x, the first three tail systematic bits, N parity bits y, and the first three tail parity bits, and constituent encoder 322b provides the second three tail systematic bits, N parity bits z, and the last three tail parity bits. For each packet, encoder 114y provides N information bits, six tail systematic bits, N+3 parity bits from encoder 322a, and N+3 parity bits from encoder 322b.

Code interleaver 314 may implement any one of a number of interleaving schemes. In one specific interleaving scheme, the N information bits in the packet are written, by row, into a 2^6 -row by 2^6 -column array, where n is the smallest integer such that $N \le 2^{6n}$. The rows are then shuffled according to a bit-reversal rule. For example, row 1 ("00001") is swapped with row 16 ("10000"), row 3 ("00011") is swapped with row 24 ("11000"), and so on. The bits

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within each row are then permutated (i.e., rearranged) according to a row-specific linear congruential sequence (LCS). The LCS for row k may be defined as $x_k(i+1) = |x_k(i) + c_k| \mod 2^n$, where $i = 0, 1, \dots 2^{n-1}$, $x_k(0) = c_k$, and c_k is a specific value selected for each row and is further dependent on the value for n. For permutation in each row, the i^n bit in the row is placed in location x(i). The bits in code interleaver 314 are then read out by column.

The above LCS code interleaving scheme is described in further detail in commonly assigned U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/205,511, entitled "TURBO CODE INTERLEAVER USING LINEAR CONGRUENTIAL, 10 SEQUENCES," filed December 4, 1998, and in a document entitled "C.S0002-A-1 Physical Layer Standard for cdma2000 Spread Spectrum Systems" (hereinafter referred to as the cdma2000 standard), both of which are incorporated herein by reference.

Other code interleaver may also be used and are within the scope of the invention. For example, a random interleaver or a symmetrical-random (Srandom) interleaver may also be used instead of the linear congruential sequence interleaver described above.

For clarity, the data coding is specifically described based on a Turbo code. Other coding schemes may also be used and are within the scope of the invention. For example, the data may be coded with a convolutional code, a block code, a concatenated code comprised of a combination of block, convolutional, and/or Turbo codes, or some other code. The data may be coded in accordance with a "base" code, and the coded bits may thereafter be processed (e.g., punctured) based on the capabilities of the transmission channels used to transmit the data.

Channel Interleaving

Referring back to FIG. 1, the coded bits from encoder 114 are interleaved by channel interleaver 116 to provide temporal and frequency diversity against deleterious path effects (e.g., fading). Moreover, since coded bits are subsequently grouped together to form non-binary symbols that are then mapped to modulation symbols, the interleaving further ensures that the coded bits that form each modulation symbol are not located close to each other (temporally). For static additive white Gaussian noise (AWGN) channels, the channel interleaving is less critical when a Turbo encoder is also employed, since the code interleaver effectively performs similar functions.

Various interleaving schemes may be used for the channel interleaver. In one interleaving scheme, the coded bits (i.e., the information, tail, and parity

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bits) for each packet are written (linearly) to rows of memory. The bits in each row may then be permutated (i.e., rearranged) based on (1) a bit-reversal rule, (2) a linear congruential sequence (such as the one described above for the code interleaver), (3) a randomly generated pattern, (4) or a permutation pattern generated in some other manner. The rows are also permutated in accordance with a particular row permutation pattern. The permutated coded bits are then retrieved from each column and provided to puncturer 117.

In an embodiment, the channel interleaving is performed individually for each bit stream in a packet. For each packet, the information bits x, the tail and parity bits y from the first constituent encoder, and the tail and parity bits z from the second constituent encoder may be interleaved by three separate interleavers, which may employ the same or different channel interleaving schemes. This separate interleaving allows for flexible puncturing on the individual bit streams.

The interleaving interval may be selected to provide the desired temperal and frequency diversity. For example, coded bits for a particular time period (e.g., 10 msec, 20 msec, or some other) and/or for a particular number of transmission channels may be interleaved.

20 Puncturing

As noted above, for an OFDM communication system, the number of information bits that may be transmitted for each modulation symbol is dependent on the SNR of the transmission channel used to transmit the modulation symbol. And for an OFDM system operated in the MIMO mode, the number of information bits that may be transmitted for each modulation symbol is dependent on the SNR of the frequency subchannel and spatial subchannel used to transmit the modulation symbol.

In accordance with an aspect of the invention, a number of coding/puncturing schemes may be used to generate the coded bits (i.e., information, tail, and parity bits) for transmission. In a first coding/puncturing scheme, a particular base code and common puncturing is applied for all transmission channels. In a second coding/puncturing scheme, the same base code but variable puncturing is applied for the transmission channels. The variable puncturing is dependent on the SNR of the transmission channels.

FIG. 4A is a flow diagram of an embodiment for generating the required coded bits for a data transmission, which employs the base code and common puncturing scheme. Initially, the SNR for each transmission channel (i.e., each eigenmode of each frequency subchannel) is determined, at step 412. For an

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OFDM system not operated in the MIMO mode, only one eigenmode is supported and thus only one SNR is determined for each frequency subchannel. The SNR for each transmission channel may be determined based on the transmitted pilot reference or via some other mechanism.

5 At step 414, the number of information bits per modulation symbol supported by each transmission channel is determined based on its SNR. A table that associates a range of SNR with each specific number of information bits/modulation symbol, such as Table 1, may be used. However, finer quantization than the 0.5-bit step size for the information bits shown in Table 1 may be used. A modulation scheme is then selected for each transmission channel such that the number of information bits/modulation symbol can be transmitted, at step 416. The modulation scheme may also be selected to take into account other factors (e.g., coding complexity), as described in further detail below.

At step 418, the total number of information bits that may be transmitted in each time slot for all transmission channels is determined. This can be achieved by summing the number of information bits/modulation symbol determined for all transmission channels. Similarly, the total number of coded bits that may be transmitted in each time slot for all transmission channels is determined, at step 420. This can be achieved by determining the number of coded bits/modulation symbol for each modulation scheme selected in step 416, and summing the number of coded bits for all transmission channels.

At step 422, the total number of information bits determined in step 418 is encoded with a particular encoder. If a Turbo encoder is used, the tail bits and parity bits generated by the encoder are punctured to obtain the total number of coded bits determined in step 420. The unpunctured coded bits are then grouped into non-binary symbols, which are then mapped to modulation symbols for the transmission channels, at step 426.

The first coding/puncturing scheme is relatively simple to implement since the same base code and puncturing scheme are used for all transmission channels. The modulation symbol for each transmission channel represents a point in a signal constellation corresponding to the modulation scheme selected for that transmission channel. If the distribution of the SNR for the transmission channels is widespread, the distance between the constellation points relative to the noise variance for different signal constellations will vary widely. This may then impact the performance of the system.

FIG. 4B is a flow diagram of an embodiment for generating the required coded bits for a data transmission, which employs the same base code but

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variable puncturing scheme. Initially, the SNR for each transmission channel is determined, at step 432. In an embodiment, transmission channels with insufficient SNR are omitted from use for data transmission (i.e., no data is transmitted on poor transmission channels). The number of information bits per modulation symbol supported by each transmission channel is then determined based on its SNR, at step 434. A modulation scheme is next selected for each transmission channel such that the number of information bits/modulation symbol can be transmitted, at step 436. Steps 432, 434, and 436 in FIG. 4B correspond to steps 412, 414, and 416 in FIG. 4A.

At step 438, the transmission channels belonging to the same SNR range are grouped into a segment. Alternatively, ranges can be defined for the number of information bits per modulation symbol (e.g., range 1 covering 1.0 to 1.5 information bits/modulation symbol, range 2 covering 1.5 to 2.0 information bits/modulation symbol, and so on). In this case, transmission channels having number of information bits per modulation symbol within the same range are grouped into a segment.

Each segment includes K, transmission channels, where K, can be any integer one or greater. The total number of information bits and total number of coded bits that can be transmitted in each segment are then determined, at step 440. For example, segment i may include K, transmission channels, each of which may support transmission of N, information bits/modulation symbol and P, tail and parity bits/modulation symbol. For each time slot, the total number of information bits that may be transmitted in segment i can be computed as K, N_P, the total number of tail and parity bits that may be transmitted can be computed as K, N_P, the total number of tail and parity bits that may be computed as K, N_P, the total number of coded bits may be computed as K, N_P + P_P.

At step 442, the information bits to be transmitted in each time slot for all segments, which may be computed as $\sum K_i N_i$, are encoded with a particular

encoder (e.g., a rate 1/3 Turbo encoder such at the one shown in FIG. 3B). At step 444, N_i information bits and N_i/R parity and tail bits are assigned to each transmission channel of segment i, where R is the coding rate of the encoder. The N_i/R parity and tail bits are then punctured to obtain the P_i parity and tail bits required for each transmission channel of the segment, at step 446. At step 446, the N_i information bits and the P_i parity and tail bits for each transmission channel of segment i are mapped to a modulation symbol for the transmission channel.

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The second coding/purcturing scheme may provide improved performance over the first scheme, especially if the distribution of SNR for the transmission channels is widespread. Since different modulation schemes and coding rate may be used for different transmission channels, the number of bits transmitted on each transmission channel is typically communicated from the receiver to the transmitter on the reverse link.

Table 1 shows the quantization of the number of information bits/modulation symbol using 0.5-bit step size. The quantization granularity may be reduced (i.e., to be finer than 0.5-bit) if each segment (and not each transmission channel) is required to support an integer number of information bits. If K, N, is required to be an integer, a larger integer value for K, allows for a smaller step size for N. The quantization granularity may be further reduced if the quantization is allowed to be carried from segment to segment. For example, if one bit needs to be rounded-off in one segment, one bit may be 15 rounded-up in the next segment, if appropriate. The quantization granularity may also be reduced if the quantization is allowed to be carried over multiple time slots.

To support an OFDM system (especially one operated in the MIMO mode) whereby different SNR may be achieved for the transmission channels, a flexible puncturing scheme may be used in conjunction with a common base encoder (e.g., a rate 1/3 Turbo encoder) to achieve the necessary roding rates. This flexible puncturing scheme may be used to provide the necessary number of tail and parity bits for each segment. For a high coding rate in which more tail and parity bits are punctured than retained, the puncturing may be efficiently achieved by retaining the required number of tail and parity bits as they are generated by the encoder and discarding the others.

As an example, a segment may include 20 16-QAM modulation symbols and has a SNR that supports transmission of 2.75 information bits/modulation symbol. For this segment, 55 information bits (55 = 20x2.75) may be transmitted in 20 modulation symbols. Each 16-QAM modulation symbol is formed with four coded bits, and 80 coded bits are needed for 20 modulation symbols. The 55 information bits may be encoded with a rate 1/3 encoder to generate 122 tail and parity bits and 55 information bits. These 122 tail and parity bits may be punctured to provide the 35 tail and parity bits required for the segment, which in combination with the 55 information bits comprise the 80 coded bits.

Referring back to FIG. 1, puncturer 117 receives the interleaved information and parity bits from channel interleaver 116, punctures (i.e.,

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deletes) some of the tail and parity bits to achieve the desired coding rate(s), and multiplexes the unpunctured information, tail, and parity bits into a sequence of coded bits. The information bits (which are also referred to as systematic bits) may also be punctured along with the tail and parity bits, and this is within the scope of the invention.

FIG. 3C is a diagram of an embodiment of a puncturer 117x, which may be used to provide variable puncturing of coded bits. Puncturer 117x is one implementation of puncturer 117 in FIG. 1. Using a set of counters, puncturer 117x performs puncturing to retain P, tail and parity bits out of Q, tail and parity bits generated by the encoder for segment i.

Within puncturer 117x, the interleaved tail and parity bits y_{per} and z_{per} from the two constituent encoders of the Turbo encoder are provided to two inputs of a switch 342. Switch 342 provides either the y_{ter} tail and parity bits or the z_{per} tail and parity bits to line 343, depending on a control signal from a toggle unit 348. Switch 342 ensures that the tail and parity bits from the two constituent encoders are evenly selected by alternating between the two tail and parity bit streams.

A first counter 352 performs modulo-Q addition and wraps around after its content reaches beyond Q-1. A second counter 354 counts (by one) the Q tail and parity bits. For each segment, both counters 352 and 354 are initially set to zero, switch 342 is in the up position, and the first tail or parity bit y_{pne} is provided from multiplexer 346 by closing a switch 344 and appropriately controlling the multiplexer. For each subsequent clock cycle, counter 352 is incremented by P and counter 354 is incremented by one. The value of counter 352 is provided to a decision unit 356. If counter 352 experiences a modulo-Q operation (i.e., the content of counter 352 wraps around), the tail or parity bit on line 343 is provided through switch 344 to multiplexer 346, which then provides the tail or parity bit as an output coded bit. Each time a tail or parity bit is provided from multiplexer 346, toggle unit 348 toggles the state of the control signal, and the other tail and parity bit stream is provided to line 343. The process continues until all Q tail and parity bits in the segment are exhausted, as indicated by comparison unit 356.

Other puncturing patterns may also be used and are within the scope of the invention. To provide good performance, the number of tail and parity bits to be punctured should be balanced between the two constituent codes (i.e., approximately equal number of y_{ber} and z_{ber} tail and parity bits are selected) and the unpunctured bits should be distributed relatively evenly over the code block for each segment.

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In certain instances, the number of information bits may be less than the capacity of the transmission channels. In such instances, the available and unfilled bit positions may be filled with zero padding, by repeating some of the coded bits, or by some other scheme. The transmit power may also be reduced for some schemes.

Gray Mapping

In an embodiment, for each modulation scheme (e.g., QPSK, 16-QAM, 64-QAM, and so on) selected for use, the points in the signal constellation for the modulation scheme are defined using Gray mapping. The Gray mapping reduces the number of bit errors for more likely error events, as described in further detail below.

FIG. 5 is a diagram of a signal constellation for 16-QAM and a specific Gray mapping scheme. The signal constellation for 16-QAM includes 16 points, each of which is associated with a specific 4-bit value. For Gray mapping, the 4-bit values are associated with the points in the signal constellation such that the values for adjacent points (in the horizontal or vertical direction) differ by only one bit position. The values for points further way differ by more bit positions (e.g., the values for adjacent points in the diagonal direction differ by two bit positions).

Each group of four coded bits $(b_1b_1b_3b_4)$ is mapped to a specific point in the signal constellation associated with the same value as that of the four coded bits. For example, a value of ("0111") for the four coded bits is mapped to a point 512 in the signal constellation. This point then represents the modulation symbol for the four coded bits. For 16-QAM, each modulation symbol represents a specific one of the 16 points in the signal constellation, with the specific point being determined by the value of the four coded bits. Each modulation symbol can be expressed as a complex number (c+jd) and provided to the next processing element (i.e., MIMO processor 120 in FIG. 1).

At the receiver unit, the modulation symbols are received in the presence of noise and typically do not map to the exact location in the signal constellation. For the above example, the received modulation symbol for the transmitted coded bits ("0111") may not map to point 512 at the receiver unit. The noise may have caused the received modulation symbol to be mapped to another location in the signal constellation. Typically, there is greater likelihood of the received modulation symbol being mapped to a location near the correct location (e.g., near the points for "0101", "0011", "0110", or "1111"). Thus, the more likely error event is a received modulation symbol being

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erroneously mapped to a point adjacent to the correct point. And since adjacent points in the signal constellation have values that differ by only one bit position, the Gray mapping reduces the number of error bits for more likely error events.

FIG. 5 shows a specific Gray mapping scheme for the 16-QAM signal constellation. Other Gray mapping schemes may also be used and are within the scope of the invention. The signal constellations for other modulation schemes (e.g., 8-PSK, 64-QAM, and so on) may also be mapped with similar or other Gray mapping schemes. For some modulation schemes such as 32-QAM 10 and 128-QAM, a partial Gray mapping scheme may be used if a full Gray mapping scheme is not possible. Also, mapping schemes not based on Gray mapping may also be used and are within the scope of the invention.

MIMO Processing

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FIG. 6 is a block diagram of an embodiment of a MIMO processor 120x, which is one implementation of MIMO processor 120 in FIG. 1. The modulation symbols may be transmitted on multiple frequency subchannels and possibly from multiple transmit antennas. When operating in the MIMO mode, the transmission on each frequency subchannel and from each transmit 20 antenna represents non-duplicated data.

Within MIMO processor 120x, a demultiplexer (DEMUX) 610 receives and demultiplexes the modulation symbols into a number of subchannel symbol streams, S_{ν} through S_{ν} one subchannel symbol stream for each frequency subchannel used to transmit the symbols. Each subchannel symbol 25 stream is then provided to a respective subchannel MIMO processor 612.

Each subchannel MIMO processor 612 may further demultiplex the received subchannel symbol stream into a number of (up to N_{τ}) symbol substreams, one symbol sub-stream for each antenna used to transmit the modulation symbols. When the OFDM system is operated in the MIMO mode, each subchannel MIMO processors 612 pre-conditions the (up to) N_r modulation symbols in accordance with equation (1) described above to generate pre-conditioned modulation symbols, which are subsequently transmitted. In the MIMO mode, each pre-conditioned modulation symbol for a particular frequency subchannel of a particular transmit antenna represents a 35 linear combination of (weighted) modulation symbols for up to N_c transmit antennas. Each of the (up to) N, modulation symbols used to generate each pre-conditioned modulation symbol may be associated with a different signal constellation.

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For each time slot, (up to) N_T pre-conditioned modulation symbols may be generated by each subchannel MIMO processor 612 and provided to (up to) N_T symbol combiners 616a through 616t. For example, subchannel MIMO processor 614a assigned to frequency subchannel 1 may provide up to N_T pre-conditioned modulation symbols for frequency subchannel 1 of antennas 1 through N_T. Similarly, subchannel MIMO processor 6124 assigned to frequency subchannel L may provide up to N_T symbols for frequency subchannel L of antennas 1 through N_T. Each combiner 616 receives the pre-conditioned modulation symbols for the L frequency subchannels, combines the symbols for each time slot into a modulation symbol vector, V, and provides the modulation symbol vector to the next processing stage (i.e., modulator 122).

MIMO processor 120x thus receives and processes the modulation symbols to provide N₁ modulation symbol vectors, V₁ through V₁₇ one modulation symbol vector for each transmit antenna. The collection of L preconditioned modulation symbols for each time slot of each antenna form a modulation symbol vector V of dimensionality L. Each element of the modulation symbol vector V is associated with a specific frequency subchannel having a unique subcarrier on which the modulation symbol is conveyed. The collection of the L modulation symbols are all orthogonal to one another. If not operating in a "pure" MIMO mode, some of the modulation symbol vectors may have duplicate information on specific frequency subchannels for different transmit antennas.

Subchannel MIMO processor 612 may be designed to provide the necessary processing to implement full channel state information (full-CSI) or partial-CSI processing for the MIMO mode. Pull CSI includes sufficient characterization of the propagation path (i.e., amplitude and phase) between all pairs of transmit and receive antennas for each frequency subchannel. Partial CSI may include, for example, the SNR of the spatial subchannels. The CSI processing may be performed based on the available CSI information and on the selected frequency subchannels, transmit antennas, and so on. The CSI processing may also be enabled and disabled selectively and dynamically. For example, the CSI processing may be enabled for a particular data transmission and disabled for some other data transmissions. The CSI processing may be enabled under certain conditions, for example, when the communication link has adequate SNR. Full-CSI and partial-CSI processing is described in further detail in the aforementioned U.S Patent Application Serial No. 09/532,491.

FIG. 6 also shows an embodiment of modulator 122. The modulation symbol vectors \mathbf{V}_i through \mathbf{V}_r from MIMO processor 120x are provided to

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modulators 114a through 114t, respectively. In the embodiment shown in FIG. 6, each modulator 114 includes an IFFT 620, cycle prefix generator 622, and an upconverter 624.

IFFT 620 converts each received modulation symbol vector into its time-5 domain representation (which is referred to as an OFDM symbol) using the inverse fast Fourier transform (IFPT). IFFT 620 can be designed to perform the IFFT on any number of frequency subchannels (e.g., 8, 16, 32, and so on). In an embodiment, for each modulation symbol vector converted to an OFDM symbol, cycle prefix generator 622 repeats a portion of the time-domain 10 representation of the OFDM symbol to form a transmission symbol for the specific antenna. The cyclic prefix insures that the transmission symbol retains its orthogonal properties in the presence of multipath delay spread, thereby improving performance against deleterious path effects. The implementation of IFFT 620 and cycle prefix generator 622 is known in the art and not described 15 in detail herein.

The time-domain representations from each cycle prefix generator 622 (i.e., the "transmission" symbols for each antenna) are then processed by upconverter 624, converted into an analog signal, modulated to a RF frequency, and conditioned (e.g., amplified and filtered) to generate an RF modulated 20 signal, which is then transmitted from the respective antenna 124.

OFDM modulation is described in further detail in a paper entitled "Multicarrier Modulation for Data Transmission : An Idea Whose Time Has Come," by John A.C. Bingham, IEEE Communications Magazine, May 1990, which is incorporated herein by reference.

For an OPDM system not operated in the MIMO mode, MIMO processor 120 may be removed or disabled and the modulation symbols may be grouped into the modulation symbol vector V without any pre-conditioning. This vector is then provided to modulator 122. And for an OFDM system operated with transmit diversity (and not in the MIMO mode), demultiplexer 614 may be 30 removed or disabled and the (same) pre-conditioned modulation symbols are provided to (up to) N. combiners.

As shown in FIG. 2, a number of different transmissions (e.g., voice, signaling, data, pilot, and so on) may be transmitted by the system. Each of these transmissions may require different processing.

FIG. 7 is a block diagram of an embodiment of a system 110y capable of providing different processing for different transmissions. The aggregate input data, which includes all information bits to be transmitted by system 110y, is provided to a demultiplexer 710. Demultiplexer 710 demultiplexes the input

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data into a number of (K) channel data streams, B₁ through B₂. Each channel data stream may correspond to, for example, a signaling channel, a broadcast channel, a voice call, or a traffic data transmission. Each channel data stream is provided to a respective encoder/channel interleaver/puncturer/symbol mapping element 712 that encodes the data using a particular encoding scheme selected for that channel data stream, interleaves the encoded data based on a particular interleaving scheme, punctures the interleaved code bits, and maps the interleaved data into modulation symbols for the one or more transmission channels used for transmitting that channel data stream.

The encoding can be performed on a per channel basis (i.e., on each channel data stream, as shown in FIG. 7). However, the encoding may also be performed on the aggregate input data (as shown in FIG. 1), on a number of channel data streams, on a portion of a channel data stream, across a set of frequency subchannels, across a set of spatial subchannels, across a set of frequency subchannels and spatial subchannels, across each frequency subchannel, on each modulation symbol, or on some other unit of time, space, and frequency.

The modulation symbol stream from each encoder/channel interleaver/puncturer/symbol mapping element 712 may be transmitted on one or more frequency subchannels and via one or more spatial subchannels of each frequency subchannel. A MIMO processor 120y receives the modulation symbol streams from elements 712. Depending on the mode to be used for each modulation symbol stream, MIMO processor 120y may demultiplex the modulation symbol stream into a number of subchannel symbol streams. In the embodiment shown in Fig. 7, modulation symbol stream S_t is transmitted on one frequency subchannel and modulation symbol stream for each frequency subchannel is processed by a respective subchannel MIMO processor, demultiplexed, and combined in similar manner as that described in Fig. 6 to form a modulation symbol vector for each transmit antenna.

In general, the transmitter unit codes and modulates data for each transmission channel based on information descriptive of the channel's transmission capability. This information is typically in the form of partial-CSI or full-CSI described above. The partial or full-CSI for the transmission channels to be used for a data transmission is typically determined at the receiver unit and reported back to the transmitter unit, which then uses the information to code and modulate data accordingly. The techniques described herein are applicable for multiple parallel transmission channels supported by

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MIMO, OFDM, or any other communication scheme (e.g., a CDMA scheme) capable of supporting multiple parallel transmission channels.

Demodulation and Decoding

FIG. 8 is a block diagram of an embodiment of a decoding portion of system 150. For this embodiment, a Turbo encoder is used to encode the data prior to transmission. A Turbo decoder is correspondingly used to decode the received modulation symbols.

As shown in FIG. 8, the received modulation symbols are provided to a bit log-likelihood ratio (LLR) calculation unit 158x, which calculates the LLRs of the bits that make up each modulation symbol. Since a Turbo decoder operates on LLRs (as oppose to bits), bit LLR calculation unit 158x provides an LLR for each received coded bit. The LLR for each received coded bit is the logarithm of the probability that the received coded bit is a zero divided by the probability that the received coded bit is a one.

As described above, M coded bits $(b_1, b_2, \dots b_m)$ are grouped to form a single non-binary symbol S, which is then mapped to a modulation symbol T(S) (i.e., modulated to a high-order signal constellation). The modulation symbol is processed, transmitted, received, and further processed to provide a received modulation symbol R(S). The LLR of coded bit b_m in the received modulation symbol can be computed as:

$$\begin{split} LLR(b_m) &= \log \left(\frac{P(b_m = 0)}{P(b_m = 1)} \right) \\ &= \log \left(P(R(S) \mid b_m = 0) \right) - \log \left(P(R(S) \mid b_m = 1) \right) \quad \text{Eq (2)} \\ &= \log \left(\sum_{T \leq 1 \leq b_m > 0} P(R(S) \mid T(S)) \right) - \log \left(\sum_{T \leq 1 \leq b_m > 0} P(R(S) \mid T(S)) \right) \end{split}$$

where $P(R(S) \mid b_m = 0)$ is the probability of bit b_m being a zero based on the received symbol R(S). Approximations may also be used in computing the LLRs.

De-puncturer 159 then inserts "erasures" for code bits that have been deleted (i.e., punctured) at the transmitter. The erasures typically have a value of zero ("0"), which is indicative of the punctured bit being equally likely to be a zero or a one.

From equation (2), it can be noted that the LLRs for the received coded bits within a modulation symbol tend to be correlated. This correlation can be

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broken up by interleaving the coded bits prior to modulation. As shown in FIG. 1, the channel interleaving advantageously performs the decorrelation of the coded bits in each modulation symbol.

The coded bit LLRs are provided to a channel deinterleaver 160 and 5 deinterleaved in a manner complementary to the channel interleaving performed at the transmitter. The channel deinterleaved LLRs corresponding to the received information, tail, and parity bits are then provided to a Turbo decoder 162x.

Turbo decoder 162x includes summers 810a and 810b, decoders 812a and 812b, a code interleaver 814, a code deinterleaver 816, and a detector 818. In an embodiment, each decoder 812 is implemented as a soft-input/soft-output (SISO) maximum a posterior (MAP) decoder.

Summer 810a receives and sums the LLRs of the received information bits, LLR(x'), and the extrinsic information from deinterleaver 816 (which is set to zeros on the first iteration), and provides refined LLRs. The refined LLRs are associated with greater confidence in the detected values of the received information bits.

Decoder 812a receives the refined LLRs from summer 810a and the LLRs of the received tail and parity bits from the first constituent encoder, LLR(y'), and decodes the received LLRs to generate extrinsic information indicative of corrections in the probability values for the received information bits. The extrinsic information from decoder 812a are summed with the received information bit LLRs by summer 810b, and the refined LLRs are stored to code interleaver 814. Code interleaver 814 implements the same code interleaving used at the Turbo encoder (e.g., the same as code interleaver 314 in FIG. 3B).

Decoder 812b receives the interleaved LLRs from interleaver 814 and the LLRs of the received tail and parity bits from the second constituent encoder, LLR(z), and decodes the received LLRs to generate extrinsic information indicative of further corrections in the probability values for the received information bits. The extrinsic information from decoder 812b is stored to code deinterleaver 816, which implements a deinterleaving scheme complementary to the interleaving scheme used for interleaver 814.

The decoding of the received coded bit LLRs is iterated a number of times. With each iteration, greater confidence is gained for the refined LLRs.

35 After all the decoding iterations have been completed, the final refined LLRs are provided to detector 818, which provides values for the received information bits based on the LLRs.

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Other types of decoder may also be used beside the SISO MAP decoder such as one that implements the soft output Viterbi algorithm (SOVA). The design of the decoder is typically dependent on the particular Turbo coding scheme used at the transmitter.

Turbo decoding is described in greater detail by Steven S. Pietrobon in a paper entitled "Implementation and Performance of a Turbo/Map Decoder," International Journal of Satellite Communications, Vol. 16, 1998, pp. 23-46, which is incorporated herein by reference.

10 Modulation Scheme and Coding Rate

The achieved SNR of each transmission channel supports a particular number of information bits per modulation symbol (i.e., a particular information bit rate) for a destred level of performance (e.g., 1% FBR). This information bit rate may be supported by a number of different modulation schemes. For example, a bit rate of 1.5 information bits/modulation symbol may be supported by QPSK, 8-PSK, 16-QAM, or any higher order modulation scheme. Bach modulation scheme is able to transmit a particular number of coded bits per modulation symbol.

Depending on the selected modulation scheme, a corresponding coding rate is selected such that the required number of coded bits is provided for the number of information bits for each modulation symbol. For the above example, QPSK, 8-PSK, and 16-QAM are respectively able to transmit 2, 3, and 4 coded bits per modulation symbol. For an information bits rate of 1.5 information bits/modulation symbol, coding rates of 3/4, 1/2, and 3/8 are used to generate the required number of coded bits for QPSK, 8-PSK, and 16-QAM, respectively. Thus, different combinations of modulation scheme and coding rate may be used to support a particular information bit rate.

In certain embodiments of the invention, a "weak" binary code (i.e., a high coding rate) is used in conjunction with a low-order modulation scheme for the supported bit rate. Through a series of simulation, it is observed that a lower order modulation scheme in combination with a weaker code may offer better performance than a higher order modulation scheme with a stronger code. This result may be explained as follows. The LLR decoding metrics of binary Turbo codes in an AWGN channel is near optimal for the Turbo decoding algorithm. However, for the Cray mapped high-order modulation scheme, the optimal LLR metrics are generated for each received modulation symbol and not each received bit. The symbol LLR metrics are then broken to yield bit LLR metrics for the binary code decoder. Some information is lost

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during the break-up process, and using the bit decoding metrics may result in non-optimal performance. The lower order modulation schemes correspond to fewer bits per symbol, which may experience less of the break-up loss and therefore provide better performance than the higher order modulation scheme 5 counterparts.

In accordance with an aspect of the invention, in order to achieve certain spectrum efficiency, a code with a coding rate of between, and inclusive of, n/(n+1) to n/(n+2) is used with an appropriate modulation scheme, where n is the number of information bits per modulation symbol. This coding rate may 10 be easily achieved with a fixed code (e.g., the rate 1/3 Turbo code described above) in combination with a variable puncturing scheme. To achieve a high coding rate, the tail and parity bits may be heavily punctured and the unpunctured tail and parity bits may be evenly distributed over the information bits.

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Framing

For many communication systems, it is convenient to define data packets (i.e., logical frames) with fixed sizes. For example, a system may define three different packets having sizes of 1024, 2048, and 4096 bits. These defined 20 data packets simplify some of the processing at both the transmitter and receiver.

For an OFDM system, a physical frame may be defined to include (1) an integer number of OFDM symbols, (2) a particular number of modulation symbols on one or more transmission channels, (3) or some other units. As 25 described above, because of the time-variant nature of the communication link, the SNR of the transmission channels may vary over time. Consequently, the number of information bits which may be transmitted on each time slot for each transmission channel will likely vary over time, and the number of information bits in each physical frame will also likely vary over time.

In one embodiment, a logical frame is defined such that it is independent of the OFDM symbols. In this embodiment, the information bits for each logical frame are encoded/punctured, and the coded bits for the logical frame are grouped and mapped to modulation symbols. In one simple implementation, the transmission channels are sequentially numbered. The 35 coded bits are then used to form as many modulation symbols as needed, in the sequential order of the transmission channels. A logical frame (i.e., a data packet) may be defined to start and end at modulation symbol boundaries. In this implementation, the logical frame may span more than one OFDM symbol

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and may further cross OFDM symbol boundaries. Moreover, each OFDM symbol may include coded bits from multiple data packets.

In another embodiment, a logical frame is defined based on a physical unit. For example, a logical frame may be defined to include (1) a number of modulation symbols on one or more transmission channels, (2) one or more OPDM symbols, or (3) a number of modulation symbols defined in some other

The use of punctured binary Turbo code and Gray mapping (BIC-GM) for high-order modulation provides numerous advantages. The BTC-GM scheme is simpler to implement than the more optimal but more complicated Turbo trellis coded modulation (TTCM) scheme, yet can achieve performance close to that of TTCM. The BTC-GM scheme also provides a high degree of flexibility because of the ease of implementing different coding rate by simply adjusting the variable puncturing. The BTC-GM scheme also provides robust performance under different puncturing parameters. Also, currently available binary Turbo decoders may be used, which may simply the implementation of the receiver. However, in certain embodiments, other coding schemes may also be used and are within the scope of the invention.

The foregoing description of the preferred embodiments is provided to enable any person skilled in the art to make or use the present invention. Various modifications to these embodiments will be readily apparent to those skilled in the art, and the generic principles defined herein may be applied to other embodiments without the use of the inventive faculty. Thus, the present invention is not intended to be limited to the embodiments shown herein but is to be accorded the widest scope consistent with the principles and novel features disclosed herein.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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CLAIMS

In a wireless communication system, a method for preparing data for
 transmission on a plurality of transmission channels, wherein each transmission channel is operative to transmit a respective sequence of
 modulation symbols, the method comprising:

determining a number of information bits per modulation symbol 5 supported by each transmission channel;

identifying a modulation scheme for each transmission channel such that the determined number of information bits per modulation symbol is supported;

determining a coding rate for each transmission channel based at least on the determined number of information bits per modulation symbol and the identified modulation scheme for the transmission channel, wherein at least two transmission channels are associated with different coding rates;

encoding a plurality of information bits in accordance with a particular encoding scheme to provide a plurality of coded bits;

puncturing the plurality of coded bits in accordance with a particular
 puncturing scheme to provide a number of unpunctured coded bits for the
 plurality of transmission channels; and

adjusting the puncturing to achieve the different coding rates for the at 20 least two transmission channels.

- The method of claim 1, wherein the wireless communication system is
 a multiple-input multiple-output (MIMO) system with a plurality of transmit antennas and a plurality of receive antennas.
- The method of claim 1, wherein the wireless communication system is
 an orthogonal frequency division modulation (OFDM) communication system.
- The method of claim 3, wherein the OFDM communication system is
 operated as a multiple-input multiple-output (MIMO) system with a plurality of transmit antennas and a plurality of receive antennas.
- The method of claim 4, wherein the OFDM system is operative to
 transmit data on a plurality of frequency subchannels, and wherein each transmission channel corresponds to a spatial subchannel of a frequency
 subchannel in the OFDM system.

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- $6. \quad \text{The method of claim 1, wherein the puncturing is based on} \\ 2 \quad \text{transmission capabilities of the plurality of transmission channels.}$
- The method of claim 6, wherein the transmission capabilities are
 determined from channel state information (CSI) derived for the plurality of transmission channels.
- 8. The method of claim 7, wherein the CSI includes signal-to-noise ratio $2\,$ (SNR) information for the plurality of transmission channels.
- 9. The method of claim 7, wherein the CSI includes information related 2 to transmission characteristics from transmit anternas to the receive antennas.
- The method of claim 7, wherein the CSI includes eigenmode
 information related to transmission characteristics from transmit antennas to the receive antennas.
 - 11. The method of claim 6, further comprising:
- 2 grouping transmission channels having similar transmission capabilities to segments, and
- 4 wherein the puncturing is performed for each segment.
 - 12. The method of claim 11, further comprising:
- 2 assigning a group of coded bits to each segment, and
- wherein the puncturing is performed on the group of coded bits $\ensuremath{\mathbf{4}}$ assigned to each segment.
- $13. \quad \text{The method of claim 11, wherein each segment includes} \\ 2 \quad \text{transmission channels having SNR within a particular SNR range.}$
- $14.\,$ The method of claim 1, wherein the encoding is achieved via a Turbo $2\,$ -code.
- The method of claim 14, wherein the encoding provides a plurality
 of tail and parity bits for the plurality of information bits, and wherein the puncturing is performed on the plurality of tail and parity bits.

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- 16. The method of claim 14, wherein the puncturing is performed such
 that unpunctured tail and parity bits are approximately evenly distributed over the plurality of information bits.
- 17. The method of claim 14, wherein the Turbo code includes two
 2 constituent codes operative to provide two streams of tail and parity bits, and wherein the puncturing is performed such that approximately equal number of
 4 tail and parity bits are deleted from the two streams of tail and parity bits.
- 18. The method of claim 1, wherein the coding rate for each
 transmission channel is selected to be between, and inclusive of, n/(n+1) and n/(n+2), where n is the number of information bits per modulation symbol
 supported by the transmission channel.
- . 19. The method of claim 1, wherein the coding rate for each 2 transmission channel is 1/2 or higher.
- $20. \ \ \,$ The method of claim 1, wherein the encoding is achieved via a 2 -convolutional code.
- $\,$ 23. The method of claim 1, wherein the encoding is achieved via a block 2 $\,$ code.
 - 22. The method of claim 1, further comprising: inserting padding bits to fill available but unfilled bit positions in the plurality of transmission channels.
- 23. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 repeating at least some of the coded bits to fill available but unfilled bit positions in the plurality of transmission channels.
 - The method of claim 1, further comprising: interleaving the plurality of coded bits.
- The method of claim 24, wherein the puncturing is performed on
 interleaved coded bits.

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- 26. The method of claim 24, wherein the encoding is achieved via a
 2 Turbo code comprised of two constituent codes, and wherein the plurality of information bits, a plurality of tail and parity bits from a first constituent code,
 4 and a plurality of tail and parity bits from a second constituent code are separately interleaved.
 - 27. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
- forming non-binary symbols for the plurality of transmission channels, wherein each non-binary symbol includes a group of unpunctured coded bits;
 and

mapping each non-binary symbol to a respective modulation symbol.

- 28. The method of claim 27, further comprising:
- 2 interleaving the plurality of coded bits, and
- wherein the non-binary symbols are formed from the interleaved coded
- 4 bits.
- The method of claim 27, wherein the modulation scheme for each
 transmission channel is associated with a respective signal constellation having a plurality of points, and wherein each modulation symbol is representative of
 a particular point in the signal constellation for the modulation scheme.
- 30. The method of claim 29, wherein the plurality of points in each 2 signal constellation are assigned with values based on a particular Gray mapping scheme.
- 31. The method of claim 30, wherein the values are assigned to the 2 plurality of points in each signal constellation such that values for adjacent points in the signal constellation differ by one bit position.
 - 32. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
- adapting to changes in the phrality of transmission channels by repeating the determining the number of information bits per modulation symbol, the identifying the modulation scheme, and the determining the coding rate.

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- 33. The method of claim 1, wherein the modulation scheme for each
 transmission channel supports transmission of two or more coded bits per modulation symbol.
- 34. The method of claim 1, wherein the transmission on the plurality of
 iransmission channels are intended for a single recipient receiving device.
- 35. In an orthogonal frequency division modulation (OFDM) communication system, a method for preparing data for transmission on a plurality of transmission channels, wherein each transmission channel is operative to transmit a respective sequence of modulation symbols, the method comprising:
- 6 determining a number of information bits per modulation symbol supported by each transmission channel;
- 8 identifying a modulation scheme for each transmission channel such that the determined number of information bits per modulation symbol is 10 supported;
- determining a coding rate for each transmission channel based at least

 12 on the determined number of information bits per modulation symbol and the
 identified modulation scheme for the transmission channel, wherein at least

 14 two transmission channels are associated with different coding rates;
- encoding a plurality of information bits in accordance with a particular 16 Turbo code to provide a plurality of tail and parity bits;
- $\qquad \qquad \text{interleaving the plurality of information and tail and parity bits in} \\ \text{18} \quad \text{accordance with a particular interleaving scheme;}$
- puncturing the plurality of interleaved bits in accordance with a
 20 particular puncturing scheme to provide a number of unpuncturing coded bits
 for the plurality of transmission channels, wherein the puncturing is adjusted to
 22 achieve the different coding rates for the at least two transmission channels;
- forming non-binary symbols for the plurality of transmission channels,
 wherein each non-binary symbol includes a group of unpunctured coded bits;
- 26 mapping each non-binary symbol to a respective modulation symbol.
- 36. A wireless communication system operative to transmit data on a
 plurality of transmission channels, wherein each transmission channel is used
 to transmit a respective sequence of modulation symbols, the system
 comprising:

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an encoder configured to encode a plurality of information bits in 6 accordance with a particular encoding scheme to provide a plurality of coded bits, and to puncture the plurality of coded bits in accordance with a particular puncturing scheme to provide a number of unpunctured coded bits for the plurality of transmission channels, wherein each transmission channel is capable of transmitting a particular number of information bits per modulation 10 symbol via a particular modulation scheme selected for the transmission 12 channel, wherein each transmission channel is further associated with a particular coding rate based at least on the number of information bits per modulation symbol supported by the transmission channel and its modulation scheme, wherein at least two transmission channels are associated with different coding rates, and wherein the encoder is further configured to adjust 16 the puncharing to achieve the different coding rates for the at least two 18 transmission channels.

37. The system of claim 36, further comprising:

- 2 a channel interleaver coupled to the encoder and configured to interleave the plurality of coded bits, and
- 4 wherein the encoder is configured to puncture the interleaved bits.

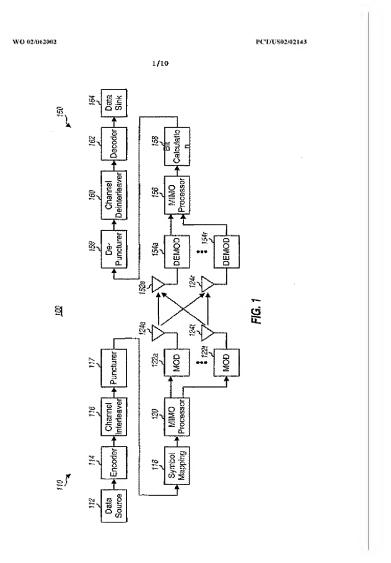
38. The system of claim 37, further comprising:

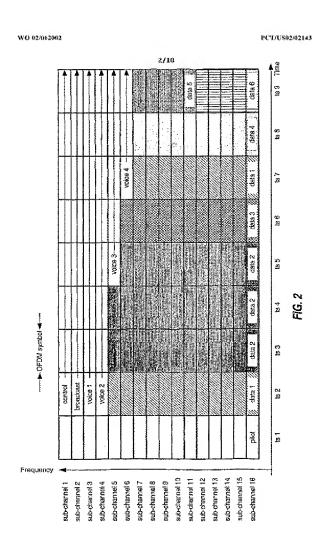
- 2 a symbol mapping element coupled to the channel interleaver and configured to form non-binary symbols for the plurality of transmission.
- channels, and to map each non-binary symbol to a respective modulation symbol, wherein each non-binary symbol includes a group of unpunctured
 coded bits.

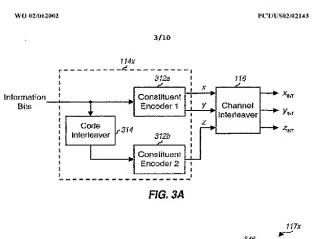
39. The system of claim 38, further comprising:

2 a signal processor coupled to the symbol mapping element and configured to pre-condition the modulation symbols for the plurality of transmission channels to implement a multiple-input multiple-output (MIMO)

transmission.







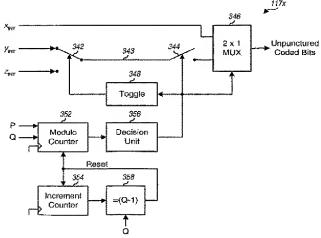
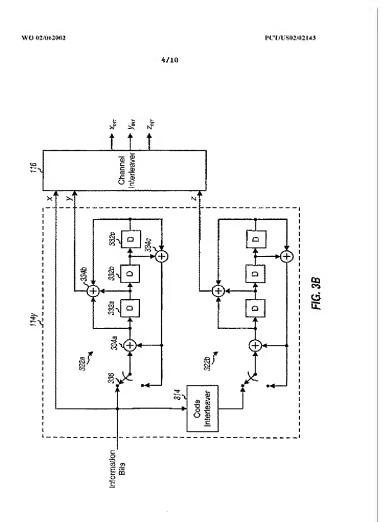
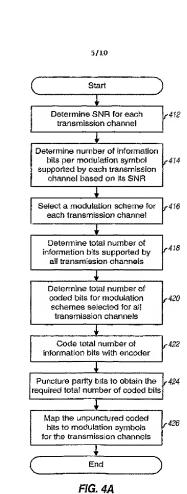


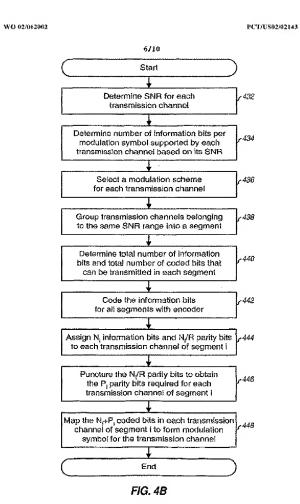
FIG. 3C



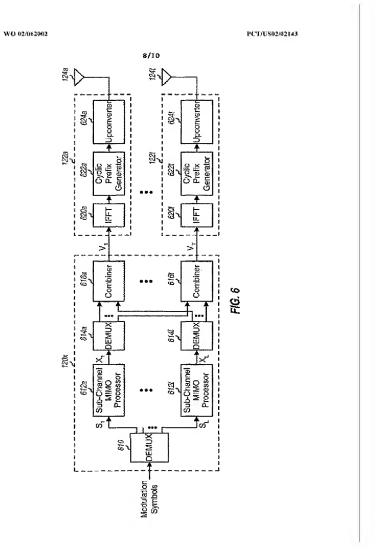
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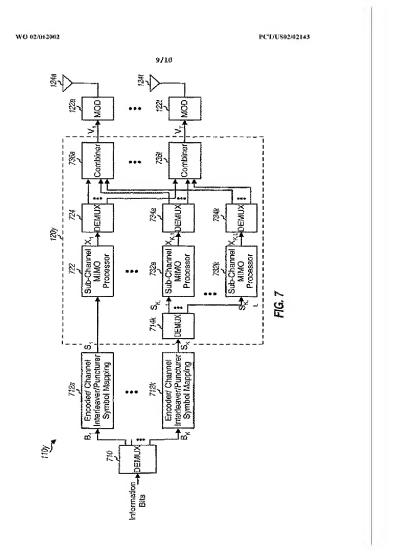


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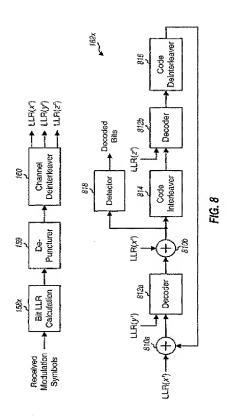


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	abstract page 487, right-hand column, paragraph 1 page 487, right-hand column, paragraph 3 page 488, left-hand column, paragraph 1 page 488, left-hand column, paragraph 3 paragraph 4 page 488, right-hand column, paragraph 5		
A	MO 00 27085 A (BROADEOM CORP ; JAFFE STEVEN (US); LIN THUJI SIMON (US); JOSHI ROBI) 11 May 2000 (2000-05-11) page 2, line 34 -page 3, line 2 page 3, line 12 - line 18 page 3, line 10 - line 18 page 4, line 2 - line 20 page 4, line 22 - line 29 page 4, line 22 - line 29 page 8, line 37 page 8, line 32 - line 37	1~39	
А	NUMETA S ET AL: "A HEN FREQUENCY-DOMAIN LINK ADAPTATION SCHEME FOR BROADBAND OFFM SYSTEMS" YET 1999-FALL IEEE YFS SOTH, VEHICULAR TECHNOLOGY COMFERENCE, GATEWAY TO THE 21ST. CENTURY COMMUNICATIONS YILLASE. AMSTERDAM, SEPT. 19 - 22. 1999, IEEE YEHICULAR TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE, NEW YORK, NY: IEEE, US, vol. 1 CONE. 50, September 1999 (1999-09), pages 253-267, XP000929050 ISBN: 0-7803-5436-2 abstract page 253, right-hand column, paragraph 2 paragraph 3 page 254, left-hand column, paragraph 3 page 254, left-hand column, paragraph 3 page 254, left-hand column, paragraph 3 page 255, left-hand column, paragraph 3 page 255, left-hand column, paragraph 3	1-39	

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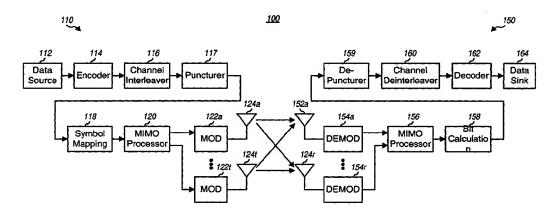
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(54) Title: CODING SCHEME FOR A WIRELESS COMMUNICATION SYSTEM



(57) Abstract: Coding techniques for a (e.g., OFDM) communication system capable of transmitting data on a number of transmission channels at different information bit rates based on the channels' achieved SNR. A base code is used in combination with common or variable puncturing to achieve different coding rates required by transmission channels. The data (i.e., information bits) for a data transmission is encoded with the base code, and the coded bits for each channel (or group of channels with the similar transmission capabilities) are punctured to achieve the required coding rate. The coded bits may be interleaved (e.g., to combat fading and remove correlation between coded bits in each modulation symbol) prior to puncturing. The unpunctured codes bits are grouped into non-binary symbols (e.g., using Gray mapping). The modulation symbol may be preconditioned and prior to transmission.





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CODING SCHEME FOR A WIRELESS COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

BACKGROUND

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I. Field

The present invention relates to data communication. More particularly, the present invention relates to a novel, flexible, and efficient coding scheme for encoding data for transmission on multiple transmission channels with different transmission capabilities.

II. Description of the Related Art

Wireless communication systems are widely deployed to provide various types of communication such as voice, data, and so on. These systems may be based on code division multiple access (CDMA), time division multiple access (TDMA), orthogonal frequency division modulation (OFDM), or some other modulation techniques. OFDM systems may provide high performance for some channel environments.

In an OFDM system, the operating frequency band is effectively partitioned into a number of "frequency subchannels", or frequency bins. Each subchannel is associated with a respective subcarrier upon which data is modulated, and may be viewed as an independent "transmission channel". Typically, the data to be transmitted (i.e., the information bits) is encoded with a particular coding scheme to generate coded bits. For a high-order modulation scheme (e.g., QPSK, QAM, and so on), the coded bits are grouped into non-binary symbols that are then used to modulate the subcarriers.

The frequency subchannels of an OFDM system may experience different link conditions (e.g., different fading and multipath effects) and may achieve different signal-to-noise-plus-interference ratio (SNR). Consequently, the number of information bits per modulation symbol (i.e., the information bit rate) that may be transmitted on each subchannel for a particular level of performance may be different from subchannel to subchannel. Moreover, the link conditions typically vary with time. As a result, the supported bit rates for the subchannels also vary with time.

The different transmission capabilities of the frequency subchannels plus the time-variant nature of the capabilities make it challenging to provide an effective coding scheme capable of encoding the supported number of

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information bits/modulation symbol to provide the required coded bits for the subchannels.

Accordingly, a high performance, efficient, and flexible coding scheme that may be used to encode data for transmission on multiple subchannels with different transmission capabilities is highly desirable.

SUMMARY

Various aspects of the present invention provides efficient and effective coding techniques for a communication system capable of transmitting data on a number of "transmission channels" at different information bit rates based on the channels' achieved SNR. A number of coding/puncturing schemes may be used to generate the required coded bits (i.e., the information, tail, and parity bits, if a Turbo code is used). In a first coding/puncturing scheme, a particular base code and common puncturing is used for all transmission channels (e.g., 15 all frequency subchannels in an OFDM system, or spatial subchannels of all frequency subchannels in an OFDM system with multiple input/multiple output antennas (MIMO), as described below). In a second coding/puncturing scheme, the same base code but variable puncturing is used for the transmission channels. The variable puncturing can be used to provide 20 different coding rates for the transmission channels. The coding rate for each transmission channel is dependent on the information bit rate and the modulation scheme selected for the channel.

An embodiment of the invention provides a method for preparing data for transmission on a number of transmission channels in a communication system, e.g., an orthogonal frequency division modulation (OFDM) system. Each transmission channel is operable to transmit a respective sequence of modulation symbols. In accordance with the method, the number of information bits per modulation symbol supported by each transmission channel is determined (e.g., based on the channel's SNR). A modulation scheme is then identified for each transmission channel such that the determined number of information bits per modulation symbol is supported. Based on the supported number of information bits per modulation symbol and the identified modulation scheme, the coding rate for each transmission channel is determined. At least two transmission channels are associated with different coding rates because of different transmission capabilities.

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Thereafter, a number of information bits is encoded in accordance with a particular encoding scheme to provide a number of coded bits. If a Turbo code

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is used, a number of tail and parity bits are generated for the information bits (the coded bits include the information bits, tail bits, and parity bits). The coded bits may be interleaved in accordance with a particular interleaving scheme. For ease of implementation, the interleaving may be performed prior to puncturing. The coded bits (e.g., the tail and parity bits, if a Turbo code is used) are then punctured in accordance with a particular puncturing scheme to provide a number of unpunctured coded bits for the transmission channels. The puncturing is adjusted to achieve different coding rates needed by the transmission channels. As an alternative, the puncturing may also be performed prior to interleaving.

Non-binary symbols are then formed for the transmission channels. Each non-binary symbol includes a group of interleaved and unpunctured coded bits and is mapped a respective modulation symbol. The specific number of coded bits in each non-binary symbol is dependent on the channel's modulation scheme. For a multiple-input multiple-output (MIMO) system capable of transmitting on a number of spatial subchannels for each frequency subchannel, the modulation symbols for each frequency subchannel may be pre-conditioned prior to transmission, as described below.

The invention provides methods and system elements that implement various aspects, embodiments, and features of the invention, as described in further detail below.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The features, nature, and advantages of the present invention will become more apparent from the detailed description set forth below when taken in conjunction with the drawings in which like reference characters identify correspondingly throughout and wherein:

FIG. 1 is a diagram of a multiple-input multiple-output (MIMO) communication system capable of implementing various aspects and embodiments of the invention;

FIG. 2 is a diagram that graphically illustrates an OFDM transmission from one of $N_{\scriptscriptstyle T}$ transmit antennas in the MIMO system;

FIGS. 3A and 3B are diagrams of a parallel concatenated convolutional encoder;

FIG. 3C is a diagram of an embodiment of a puncturer and multiplexer, which may be used to provide variable puncturing of coded bits;

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FIGS. 4A and 4B are flow diagrams of two coding/puncturing schemes for generating the required coded bits for a data transmission, which utilize a particular base code but common and variable puncturing schemes, respectively;

FIG. 5 is a diagram of a signal constellation for 16-QAM and a specific Gray mapping scheme;

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FIG. 6 is a block diagram of an embodiment of a MIMO processor;

FIG. 7 is a block diagram of an embodiment of a system capable of providing different processing for different transmissions; and

FIG. 8 is a block diagram of an embodiment of the decoding portion of a receiving system.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE SPECIFIC EMBODIMENTS

FIG. 1 is a diagram of a multiple-input multiple-output (MIMO) communication system 100 capable of implementing various aspects and embodiments of the invention. Communication system 100 can be designed to implement the coding schemes described herein. System 100 can further be operated to employ a combination of antenna, frequency, and temporal diversity to increase spectral efficiency, improve performance, and enhance flexibility. Increased spectral efficiency is characterized by the ability to transmit more bits per second per Hertz (bps/Hz) when and where possible to better utilize the available system bandwidth. Improved performance may be quantified, for example, by a lower bit-error-rate (BER) or frame-error-rate (FER) for a given link signal-to-noise-plus-interference ratio (SNR). enhanced flexibility is characterized by the ability to accommodate multiple users having different and typically disparate requirements. These goals may be achieved, in part, by employing a high performance and efficient coding scheme, multi-carrier modulation, time division multiplexing (TDM), multiple transmit and/or receive antennas, other techniques, or a combination thereof. The features, aspects, and advantages of the invention are described in further detail below.

As shown in FIG. 1, communication system 100 includes a first system 110 in communication with a second system 150. Within system 110, a data source 112 provides data (i.e., information bits) to an encoder 114 that encodes the data in accordance with a particular coding scheme. The encoding increases the reliability of the data transmission. The coded bits are then provided to a channel interleaver 116 and interleaved (i.e., reordered) in

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accordance with a particular interleaving scheme. The interleaving provides time and frequency diversity for the coded bits, permits the data to be transmitted based on an average SNR for the subchannels used for the data transmission, combats fading, and further removes correlation between coded bits used to form each modulation symbol, as described below. The interleaved bits are then punctured (i.e., deleted) to provide the required number of coded bits. The encoding, channel interleaving, and puncturing are described in further detail below. The unpunctured coded bits are then provided to a symbol mapping element 118.

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In an OFDM system, the operating frequency band is effectively partitioned into a number of "frequency subchannels" (i.e., frequency bins). At each "time slot" (i.e., a particular time interval that may be dependent on the bandwidth of the frequency subchannel), a "modulation symbol" may be transmitted on each frequency subchannel. As described in further detail below, the OFDM system may be operated in a MIMO mode in which multiple (N_T) transmit antennas and multiple (N_R) receive antennas are used for a data transmission. The MIMO channel may be decomposed into N_c independent channels, with $N_c \le N_{\scriptscriptstyle T}$ and $N_c \le N_{\scriptscriptstyle R}$. Each of the N_c independent channels is also referred to as a "spatial subchannel" of the MIMO channel, which corresponds to a dimension. In the MIMO mode, increased dimensionality is achieved and N_c modulation symbols may be transmitted on N_c spatial subchannels of each frequency subchannel at each time slot. In an OFDM system not operated in the MIMO mode, there is only one spatial subchannel. Each frequency subchannel/spatial subchannel may also be referred to as a "transmission channel". The MIMO mode and spatial subchannel are described in further detail below.

The number of information bits that may be transmitted for each modulation symbol for a particular level of performance is dependent on the SNR of the transmission channel. For each transmission channel, symbol mapping element 118 groups a set of unpunctured coded bits to form a non-binary symbol for that transmission channel. The non-binary symbol is then mapped to a modulation symbol, which represents a point in a signal constellation corresponding to the modulation scheme selected for the transmission channel. The bit grouping and symbol mapping are performed for all transmission channels, and for each time slot used for data transmission. The modulation symbols for all transmission channels are then provided to a MIMO processor 120.

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Depending on the particular "spatial" diversity being implemented (if any), MIMO processor 120 may demultiplex, pre-condition, and combine the received modulation symbols. The MIMO processing is described in further detail below. For each transmit antenna, MIMO processor 120 provides a stream of modulation symbol vectors, one vector for each time slot. Each modulation symbol vector includes the modulation symbols for all frequency subchannels for a given time slot. Each stream of modulation symbol vectors is received and modulated by a respective modulator (MOD) 122, and transmitted via an associated antenna 124.

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In the embodiment shown in FIG. 1, receiving system 150 includes a number of receive antennas 152 that receive the transmitted signals and provide the received signals to respective demodulators (DEMOD) 154. Each demodulator 154 performs processing complementary to that performed at modulator 122. The demodulated symbols from all demodulators 154 are provided to a MIMO processor 156 and processed in a complementary manner as that performed at MIMO processor 120. The received symbols for the transmission channels are then provided to a bit calculation unit 158 that performs processing complementary to that performed by symbol mapping element 118 and provides values indicative of the received bits. Erasures (e.g., zero value indicatives) are then inserted by a de-puncturer 159 for coded bits punctured at system 110. The de-punctured values are then deinterleaved by a channel deinterleaver 160 and further decoded by a decoder 162 to generate decoded bits, which are then provided to a data sink 164. The channel deinterleaving, de-puncturing, and decoding are complementary to the channel interleaving, puncturing, and encoding performed at the transmitter.

FIG. 2 is a diagram that graphically illustrates an OFDM transmission from one of $N_{\scriptscriptstyle T}$ transmit antennas in a MIMO system. In FIG. 2, the horizontal axis represents time and the vertical axis represents frequency. In this specific example, the transmission channel includes 16 frequency subchannels and is used to transmit a sequence of OFDM symbols, with each OFDM symbol covering all 16 frequency subchannels. A time division multiplexing (TDM) structure is also illustrated in which the data transmission is partitioned into time slots, with each time slot having a particular duration. For the example shown in FIG. 2, the time slot is equal to the length of one modulation symbol.

The available frequency subchannels may be used to transmit signaling, voice, packet data, and so on. In the specific example shown in FIG. 2, the modulation symbol at time slot 1 corresponds to pilot data, which may be periodically transmitted to assist the receiver units synchronize and perform

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channel estimation. Other techniques for distributing pilot data over time and frequency may also be used. Transmission of the pilot modulation symbol typically occurs at a particular rate, which is usually selected to be fast enough to permit accurate tracking of variations in the communication link.

The time slots not used for pilot transmissions can be used to transmit various types of data. For example, frequency subchannels 1 and 2 may be reserved for the transmission of control and broadcast data to the receiver units. The data on these subchannels is generally intended to be received by all receiver units. However, some of the messages on the control channel may be user specific, and may be encoded accordingly.

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Voice data and packet data may be transmitted in the remaining frequency subchannels. For the example shown, subchannel 3 at time slots 2 through 9 is used for voice call 1, subchannel 4 at time slots 2 through 9 is used for voice call 2, subchannel 5 at time slots 5 through 9 is used for voice call 3, and subchannel 6 at time slots 7 through 9 is used for voice call 5.

The remaining available frequency subchannels and time slots may be used for transmissions of traffic data. A particular data transmission may occur over multiple subchannels and/or multiple time slots, and multiple data transmissions may occur within any particular time slot. A data transmission may also occur over non-contiguous time slots.

In the example shown in FIG. 2, data 1 transmission uses frequency subchannels 5 through 16 at time slot 2 and subchannels 7 through 16 at time slot 3 and 4 and subchannels 6 through 16 at time slots 5, data 3 transmission uses subchannels 6 through 16 at time slot 5, data 3 transmission uses subchannels 6 through 16 at time slot 6, data 4 transmission uses subchannels 7 through 16 at time slot 8, data 5 transmission uses subchannels 7 through 11 at time slot 9, and data 6 transmission uses subchannels 12 through 16 at time slot 9. Data 1 through 6 transmissions can represent transmissions of traffic data to one or more receiver units.

To provide the transmission flexibility and achieve high performance and efficiency, each frequency subchannel at each time slot for each transmit antenna may be viewed as an independent unit of transmission (a modulation symbol) that may be used to transmit any type of data such as pilot, signaling, broadcast, voice, traffic data, some other data type, or a combination thereof. Flexibility, performance, and efficiency may further be achieved by allowing for independence among the modulation symbols, as described below. For example, each modulation symbol may be generated from a modulation

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scheme (e.g., M-PSK, M-QAM, or some other scheme) that results in the best use of the resource at that particular time, frequency, and space.

MIMO System

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In a terrestrial communications system (e.g., a cellular system, a broadcast system, a multi-channel multi-point distribution system (MMDS) system, and others), an RF modulated signal from a transmitter unit may reach the receiver unit via a number of transmission paths. The characteristics of the transmission paths typically vary over time due to a number of factors. If more than one transmit or receive antenna is used, and if the transmission paths between the transmit and receive antennas are linearly independent (i.e., one transmission is not formed as a linear combination of the other transmissions), which is generally true to at least an extent, then the likelihood of correctly receiving the transmitted signal increases as the number of antennas increases. Generally, as the number of transmit and receive antennas increases, diversity increases and performance improves.

A MIMO communication system such as the one shown in FIG. 1 employs antennas at both the transmit and receive ends of the communication link. These transmit and receive antennas may be used to provide various forms of "spatial diversity", including "transmit" diversity and "receive" diversity. Spatial diversity is characterized by the use of multiple transmit antennas and one or more receive antennas. Transmit diversity is characterized by the transmission of data over multiple transmit antennas. Typically, additional processing is performed on the data transmitted from the transmit antennas to achieved the desired diversity. For example, the data transmitted from different transmit antennas may be delayed or reordered in time, coded and interleaved across the available transmit antennas, and so on. Receive diversity is characterized by the reception of the transmitted signals on multiple receive antennas, and diversity is achieved by simply receiving the signals via different signal paths.

Spatial diversity may be used to improve the reliability of the communication link with or without increasing the link capacity. This may be achieved by transmitting or receiving data over multiple paths via multiple antennas. Spatial diversity may be dynamically selected based on the characteristics of the communication link to provide the required performance. For example, higher degree of spatial diversity may be provided for some types of communication (e.g., signaling), for some types of services (e.g., voice), for

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some communication link characteristics (e.g., low SNR), or for some other conditions or considerations.

The data may be transmitted from multiple antennas and/or on multiple frequency subchannels to obtain the desired diversity. For example, data may be transmitted on: (1) one subchannel from one antenna, (2) one subchannel (e.g., subchannel 1) from multiple antennas, (3) one subchannel from all N_T antennas, (4) a set of subchannels (e.g., subchannels 1 and 2) from one antenna, (5), a set of subchannels from multiple antennas, (6) a set of subchannels from all N_T antennas, or (7) a set of channels from a set of antennas (e.g., subchannel 1 from antennas 1 and 2 at one time slot, subchannels 1 and 2 from antenna 2 at another time slot, and so on). Thus, any combination of subchannels and antennas may be used to provide antenna and frequency diversity.

In the MIMO communication system, the multi-input multi-output channel can be decomposed into a set of N_c independent spatial subchannels. The number of such spatial subchannels is less than or equal to the lesser of the number of the transmitting antennas and the number of receiving antennas (i.e., $N_c \leq N_T$ and $N_c \leq N_R$). If H is the $N_R \times N_T$ matrix that gives the channel response for the N_T transmit antennas and the N_R receive antennas at a specific time, and \underline{x} is the N_T -vector inputs to the channel, then the received signal can be expressed as:

$$\underline{\mathbf{y}} = \mathbf{H}\underline{\mathbf{x}} + \underline{\mathbf{n}} ,$$

where $\underline{\mathbf{n}}$ is an N_R -vector representing noise plus interference. In one embodiment, the eigenvector decomposition of the Hermitian matrix formed by the product of the channel matrix with its conjugate-transpose can be expressed as:

$$\mathbf{H}^*\mathbf{H} = E\Lambda E^* ,$$

where the symbol "*" denotes conjugate-transpose, E is the eigenvector matrix, and Λ is a diagonal matrix of eigenvalues, both of dimension $N_T \times N_T$.

The transmitter converts (i.e., pre-conditions) a set of N_T modulation symbols $\underline{\mathbf{b}}$ using the eigenvector matrix \mathbf{E} . The transmitted modulation symbols from the N_T transmit antennas can be expressed as:

$$\underline{\mathbf{x}} = E\mathbf{b}$$
.

For all antennas, the pre-conditioning of the modulation symbols can be achieved by a matrix multiply operation expressed as:

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ M \\ x_{N_T} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} e_{11}, & e_{12}, & e_{1N_T} \\ e_{21}, & e_{22}, & e_{2N_T} \\ e_{N_T1}, & e_{N_T1}, & e_{N_TN_T} \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \\ M \\ b_{N_T} \end{bmatrix}$$
Eq (1)

where b_1 , b_2 , ... and b_{NT} are respectively the modulation symbols for a particular frequency subchannel at transmit antennas 1, 2, ... N_T , where each modulation symbol can be generated using, for example, M-PSK, M-QAM, and so on, as described below;

E = is the eigenvector matrix related to the transmission characteristics from transmit antennas to the receive antennas; and

 $x_1, x_2, \dots x_{NT}$ are the pre-conditioned modulation symbols, which can be expressed as:

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$$x_{1} = b_{1} \cdot e_{11} + b_{2} \cdot e_{12} + \dots + b_{N_{T}} \cdot e_{1N_{T}} ,$$

$$x_{2} = b_{1} \cdot e_{21} + b_{2} \cdot e_{22} + \dots + b_{N_{T}} \cdot e_{2N_{T}} , \text{ and}$$

$$x_{N_{T}} = b_{1} \cdot e_{N_{T}1} + b_{2} \cdot e_{N_{T}2} + \dots + b_{N_{T}} \cdot e_{N_{T}N_{T}} .$$

The received signal may be expressed as:

$$\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{HE}\underline{\mathbf{b}} + \underline{\mathbf{n}} .$$

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$$\underline{\mathbf{z}} = E^* \mathbf{H}^* \mathbf{H} E \underline{\mathbf{b}} + E^* \mathbf{H}^* \underline{\mathbf{n}} = \Lambda \underline{\mathbf{b}} + \underline{\hat{\mathbf{n}}} ,$$

where the new noise term has covariance that can be expressed as:

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$$E(\underline{\hat{n}}\underline{\hat{n}}^*) = E(E^*\mathbf{H}^*\underline{\mathbf{n}}\underline{\mathbf{n}}^*\mathbf{H}E) = E^*\mathbf{H}^*\mathbf{H}E = \Lambda,$$

i.e., the noise components are independent and have variance given by the eigenvalues. The SNR of the i^{th} component of \underline{z} is λ_i , the i^{th} diagonal element of Λ .

An embodiment of the MIMO processing is described in further detail below and in U.S Patent Application Serial No. 09/532,491, entitled "HIGH EFFICIENCY, HIGH PERFORMANCE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM EMPLOYING MULTI-CARRIER MODULATION," filed March 22, 2000,

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assigned to the assignee of the present application and incorporated herein by reference.

Each of the N_c spatial subchannels in the MIMO channel as described in the above embodiment is also referred to as an eigenmode if these channels are independent of each other. For the MIMO mode, one modulation symbol can be transmitted on each of the eigenmodes in each frequency subchannel. Since the SNR may be different for each eigenmode, the number of bits that may be transmitted over each eigenmode may also be different. As noted above, each eigenmode of each frequency subchannel is also referred to as a transmission channel.

In other embodiments, the spatial subchannels can be created differently. For example, a spatial subchannel can be defined as the transmissions from one transmitter antenna to all of the receiver antennas.

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As used herein, the MIMO mode includes full channel state information (full-CSI) and partial-CSI processing modes. For both full-CSI and partial-CSI, additional transmission paths are provided via spatially separable subchannels. Full-CSI processing utilizes eigenmodes, as described above. Partial-CSI processing does not utilize eigenmodes, and may involve providing to the transmitter unit (e.g., via feeding back on the reverse link) the SNR for each transmission channel (i.e., receive diversity port), and coding accordingly based on the received SNR.

A number of formulations may be utilized at the receiver unit to provide the requisite information for partial-CSI, including linear and non-linear forms of zero-forcing, channel correlation matrix inversion (CCMI), and minimum mean square error (MMSE), as is known in the art. For example, the derivation of SNRs for a non-linear zero-forcing (partial-CSI) MIMO case is described by P.W. Wolniansky *et al.* in a paper entitled "V-BLAST: An Architecture for Realizing Very High Data Rates Over the Rich-Scattering Wireless Channel," Proc. IEEE ISSSE-98, Pisa, Italy, Sept. 30, 1998, and incorporated herein by reference. The eigenvalues from a MIMO formulation are related to the SNRs of the eigenmodes for the full-CSI case. Non-MIMO cases can use an assortment of methods, as is known in the art.

Each transmission channel is associated with a SNR that may be known to both the transmitter and receiver. In this case, the modulation and coding parameters of each modulation symbol can be determined based on the SNR of the corresponding transmission channel. This allows for efficient use of the available frequency subchannels and eigenmodes.

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Table 1 lists the number of information bits that may be transmitted in each modulation symbol for a particular level of performance (e.g., 1% frameerror rate, or % FER) for various SNR ranges. For each SNR range, Table 1 also lists a particular modulation scheme selected for use with that SNR range, the number of coded bits that may be transmitted for each modulation symbol for the selected modulation scheme, and the coding rate used to obtain the required number of coded bits/modulation symbol given the supported number of information bits/modulation symbol.

Table 1 lists one combination of modulation scheme and coding rate for each SNR range. The supported bit rate for each transmission channel may be achieved using any one of a number of possible combinations of coding rate and modulation scheme. For example, one information bit per symbol may be achieved using (1) a coding rate of 1/2 and QPSK modulation, (2) a coding rate of 1/3 and 8-PSK modulation, (3) a coding rate of 1/4 and 16-QAM, or (4) some other combination of coding rate and modulation scheme. In Table 1, QPSK, 16-QAM, and 64-QAM are used for the listed SNR ranges. Other modulation schemes such as 8-PSK, 32-QAM, 128-QAM, and so on, may also be employed and are within the scope of the invention.

Table 1

SNR Range	# of Information Bits/Symbol	Modulation Symbol	# of Coded Bits/Symbol	Coding Rate
1.5 – 4.4	1	QPSK	2	1/2
4.4 – 6.4	1.5	QPSK	2	3/4
6.4 - 8.35	2	16-QAM	4	1/2
8.35 – 10.4	2.5	16-QAM	4	5/8
10.4 – 12.3	3	16-QAM	4	3/4
12.3 – 14.15	3.5	64-QAM	6	7/12
14.15 – 15.55	4	64-QAM	6	2/3
15.55 – 17.35	4.5	64-QAM	6	3/4
> 17.35	5	64-QAM	6	5/6

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For clarity, various aspects of the invention are described for an OFDM system and, in many instances, for an OFDM system operating in a MIMO mode. However, the encoding and processing techniques described herein may generally be applied to various communication systems such as, for example, (1) an OFDM system operating without MIMO, (2) a MIMO system operating without OFDM (i.e., operating based on a single frequency

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subchannel, i.e., a single RF carrier, but multiple spatial subchannels), (3) a MIMO system operating with OFDM, and (4) others. OFDM is simply one technique for subdividing a wideband channel into a number of orthogonal frequency subchannels.

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Encoding

FIG. 3A is a block diagram of an embodiment of a parallel concatenated convolutional encoder 114x, which is often referred to as a Turbo encoder. Turbo encoder 114x represents one implementation of the forward error correction (FEC) portion of encoder 114 in FIG. 1 and may be used to encode data for transmission over one or more transmission channels.

The encoding within encoder 114 may include error correction coding or error detection coding, or both, which are used to increase the reliability of the link. The encoding may include, for example, cyclic redundancy check (CRC) coding, convolutional coding, Turbo coding, Trellis coding, block coding (e.g., Reed-Solomon coding), other types of coding, or a combination thereof. For a wireless communication system, a packet of data may be initially encoded with a particular CRC code, and the CRC bits are appended to the data packet. Additional overhead bits may also be appended to the data packet to form a formatted data packet, which is then encoded with a convolutional or Turbo code. As used herein, "information bits" refer to bits provided to the convolutional or Turbo encoder, including transmitted data bits and bits used to provide error detection or correction capability for the transmitted bits.

As shown in FIG. 3A, Turbo encoder 114x includes two constituent encoders 312a and 312b, and a code interleaver 314. Constituent encoder 312a receives and encodes the information bits, x, in accordance with a first constituent code to generate a first sequence of tail and parity bits, y. Code interleaver 314 receives and interleaves the information bits in accordance with a particular interleaving scheme. Constituent encoder 312b receives and encodes the interleaved bits in accordance with a second constituent code to generate a second sequence of tail and parity bits, z. The information bits, tail bits, and parity bits from encoders 312a and 312b are provided to the next processing element (channel interleaver 116).

FIG. 3B is a diagram of an embodiment of a Turbo encoder 114y, which is one implementation of Turbo encoder 114x and may also be used within encoder 114 in FIG. 1. In this example, Turbo encoder 114y is a rate 1/3 encoder that provides two parity bits, y and z, for each information bit x.

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In the embodiment shown in FIG. 3B, each constituent encoder 322 of Turbo encoder 114y implements the following transfer function for the constituent code:

$$G(D) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \frac{n(D)}{d(D)} \end{bmatrix} ,$$

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$$n(D) = 1 + D + D^3$$
, and $d(D) = 1 + D^2 + D^3$

Other constituent codes may also be used and are within the scope of the invention.

Each constituent encoder 322 includes a number of series coupled delay elements 332, a number of modulo-2 adders 334, and a switch 336. Initially, the states of delay elements 332 are set to zeros and switch 336 is in the up position. Then, for each information bit in a data packet, adder 334a performs modulo-2 addition of the information bit with the output bit from adder 334c and provides the result to delay element 332a. Adder 334b receives and performs modulo-2 addition of the bits from adder 334a and delay elements 332a and 332c, and provides the parity bit *y*. Adder 334c performs modulo-2 addition of the bits from delay elements 332b and 332c.

After all N information bits in the data packet have been encoded, switch 336 is moved to the down position and three zero ("0") bits are provided to the constituent encoder 322a. Constituent encoder 322a then encodes the three zero bits and provides three tail systematic bits and three tail parity bits.

For each packet of N information bits, constituent encoder 322a provides N information bits x, the first three tail systematic bits, N parity bits y, and the first three tail parity bits, and constituent encoder 322b provides the second three tail systematic bits, N parity bits z, and the last three tail parity bits. For each packet, encoder 114y provides N information bits, six tail systematic bits, N+3 parity bits from encoder 322a, and N+3 parity bits from encoder 322b.

Code interleaver 314 may implement any one of a number of interleaving schemes. In one specific interleaving scheme, the N information bits in the packet are written, by row, into a 2^5 -row by 2^n -column array, where n is the smallest integer such that $N \le 2^{5+n}$. The rows are then shuffled according to a bit-reversal rule. For example, row 1 ("00001") is swapped with row 16 ("10000"), row 3 ("00011") is swapped with row 24 ("11000"), and so on. The bits

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within each row are then permutated (i.e., rearranged) according to a row-specific linear congruential sequence (LCS). The LCS for row k may be defined as $x_k(i+1) = \{x_k(i) + c_k\} \mod 2^n$, where $i = 0, 1, ... 2^n-1, x_k(0) = c_k$, and c_k is a specific value selected for each row and is further dependent on the value for n. For permutation in each row, the i^{th} bit in the row is placed in location x(i). The bits in code interleaver 314 are then read out by column.

The above LCS code interleaving scheme is described in further detail in commonly assigned U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/205,511, entitled "TURBO CODE INTERLEAVER USING LINEAR CONGRUENTIAL SEQUENCES," filed December 4, 1998, and in a document entitled "C.S0002-A-1 Physical Layer Standard for cdma2000 Spread Spectrum Systems" (hereinafter referred to as the cdma2000 standard), both of which are incorporated herein by reference.

Other code interleaver may also be used and are within the scope of the invention. For example, a random interleaver or a symmetrical-random (Srandom) interleaver may also be used instead of the linear congruential sequence interleaver described above.

For clarity, the data coding is specifically described based on a Turbo code. Other coding schemes may also be used and are within the scope of the invention. For example, the data may be coded with a convolutional code, a block code, a concatenated code comprised of a combination of block, convolutional, and/or Turbo codes, or some other code. The data may be coded in accordance with a "base" code, and the coded bits may thereafter be processed (e.g., punctured) based on the capabilities of the transmission channels used to transmit the data.

Channel Interleaving

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Referring back to FIG. 1, the coded bits from encoder 114 are interleaved by channel interleaver 116 to provide temporal and frequency diversity against deleterious path effects (e.g., fading). Moreover, since coded bits are subsequently grouped together to form non-binary symbols that are then mapped to modulation symbols, the interleaving further ensures that the coded bits that form each modulation symbol are not located close to each other (temporally). For static additive white Gaussian noise (AWGN) channels, the channel interleaving is less critical when a Turbo encoder is also employed, since the code interleaver effectively performs similar functions.

Various interleaving schemes may be used for the channel interleaver. In one interleaving scheme, the coded bits (i.e., the information, tail, and parity

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bits) for each packet are written (linearly) to rows of memory. The bits in each row may then be permutated (i.e., rearranged) based on (1) a bit-reversal rule, (2) a linear congruential sequence (such as the one described above for the code interleaver), (3) a randomly generated pattern, (4) or a permutation pattern generated in some other manner. The rows are also permutated in accordance with a particular row permutation pattern. The permutated coded bits are then retrieved from each column and provided to puncturer 117.

In an embodiment, the channel interleaving is performed individually for each bit stream in a packet. For each packet, the information bits x, the tail and parity bits y from the first constituent encoder, and the tail and parity bits z from the second constituent encoder may be interleaved by three separate interleavers, which may employ the same or different channel interleaving schemes. This separate interleaving allows for flexible puncturing on the individual bit streams.

The interleaving interval may be selected to provide the desired temporal and frequency diversity. For example, coded bits for a particular time period (e.g., 10 msec, 20 msec, or some other) and/or for a particular number of transmission channels may be interleaved.

20 Puncturing

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As noted above, for an OFDM communication system, the number of information bits that may be transmitted for each modulation symbol is dependent on the SNR of the transmission channel used to transmit the modulation symbol. And for an OFDM system operated in the MIMO mode, the number of information bits that may be transmitted for each modulation symbol is dependent on the SNR of the frequency subchannel and spatial subchannel used to transmit the modulation symbol.

In accordance with an aspect of the invention, a number of coding/puncturing schemes may be used to generate the coded bits (i.e., information, tail, and parity bits) for transmission. In a first coding/puncturing scheme, a particular base code and common puncturing is applied for all transmission channels. In a second coding/puncturing scheme, the same base code but variable puncturing is applied for the transmission channels. The variable puncturing is dependent on the SNR of the transmission channels.

FIG. 4A is a flow diagram of an embodiment for generating the required coded bits for a data transmission, which employs the base code and common puncturing scheme. Initially, the SNR for each transmission channel (i.e., each eigenmode of each frequency subchannel) is determined, at step 412. For an

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OFDM system not operated in the MIMO mode, only one eigenmode is supported and thus only one SNR is determined for each frequency subchannel. The SNR for each transmission channel may be determined based on the transmitted pilot reference or via some other mechanism.

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At step 414, the number of information bits per modulation symbol supported by each transmission channel is determined based on its SNR. A table that associates a range of SNR with each specific number of information bits/modulation symbol, such as Table 1, may be used. However, finer quantization than the 0.5-bit step size for the information bits shown in Table 1 may be used. A modulation scheme is then selected for each transmission channel such that the number of information bits/modulation symbol can be transmitted, at step 416. The modulation scheme may also be selected to take into account other factors (e.g., coding complexity), as described in further detail below.

At step 418, the total number of information bits that may be transmitted in each time slot for all transmission channels is determined. This can be achieved by summing the number of information bits/modulation symbol determined for all transmission channels. Similarly, the total number of coded bits that may be transmitted in each time slot for all transmission channels is determined, at step 420. This can be achieved by determining the number of coded bits/modulation symbol for each modulation scheme selected in step 416, and summing the number of coded bits for all transmission channels.

At step 422, the total number of information bits determined in step 418 is encoded with a particular encoder. If a Turbo encoder is used, the tail bits and parity bits generated by the encoder are punctured to obtain the total number of coded bits determined in step 420. The unpunctured coded bits are then grouped into non-binary symbols, which are then mapped to modulation symbols for the transmission channels, at step 426.

The first coding/puncturing scheme is relatively simple to implement since the same base code and puncturing scheme are used for all transmission channels. The modulation symbol for each transmission channel represents a point in a signal constellation corresponding to the modulation scheme selected for that transmission channel. If the distribution of the SNR for the transmission channels is widespread, the distance between the constellation points relative to the noise variance for different signal constellations will vary widely. This may then impact the performance of the system.

FIG. 4B is a flow diagram of an embodiment for generating the required coded bits for a data transmission, which employs the same base code but

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variable puncturing scheme. Initially, the SNR for each transmission channel is determined, at step 432. In an embodiment, transmission channels with insufficient SNR are omitted from use for data transmission (i.e., no data is transmitted on poor transmission channels). The number of information bits per modulation symbol supported by each transmission channel is then determined based on its SNR, at step 434. A modulation scheme is next selected for each transmission channel such that the number of information bits/modulation symbol can be transmitted, at step 436. Steps 432, 434, and 436 in FIG. 4B correspond to steps 412, 414, and 416 in FIG. 4A.

At step 438, the transmission channels belonging to the same SNR range are grouped into a segment. Alternatively, ranges can be defined for the number of information bits per modulation symbol (e.g., range 1 covering 1.0 to 1.5 information bits/modulation symbol, range 2 covering 1.5 to 2.0 information bits/modulation symbol, and so on). In this case, transmission channels having number of information bits per modulation symbol within the same range are grouped into a segment.

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Each segment includes K_i transmission channels, where K_i can be any integer one or greater. The total number of information bits and total number of coded bits that can be transmitted in each segment are then determined, at step 440. For example, segment i may include K_i transmission channels, each of which may support transmission of N_i information bits/modulation symbol and P_i tail and parity bits/modulation symbol. For each time slot, the total number of information bits that may be transmitted in segment i can be computed as $K_i \cdot N_i$, the total number of tail and parity bits that may be transmitted can be computed as $K_i \cdot P_i$, and the total number of coded bits may be computed as $K_i \cdot N_i \cdot P_i$.

At step 442, the information bits to be transmitted in each time slot for all segments, which may be computed as $\sum_{i} K_{i} N_{i}$, are encoded with a particular

encoder (e.g., a rate 1/3 Turbo encoder such at the one shown in FIG. 3B). At step 444, N_i information bits and N_i/R parity and tail bits are assigned to each transmission channel of segment i, where R is the coding rate of the encoder. The N_i/R parity and tail bits are then punctured to obtain the P_i parity and tail bits required for each transmission channel of the segment, at step 446. At step 448, the N_i information bits and the P_i parity and tail bits for each transmission channel of segment i are mapped to a modulation symbol for the transmission channel.

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The second coding/puncturing scheme may provide improved performance over the first scheme, especially if the distribution of SNR for the transmission channels is widespread. Since different modulation schemes and coding rate may be used for different transmission channels, the number of bits transmitted on each transmission channel is typically communicated from the receiver to the transmitter on the reverse link.

Table 1 shows the quantization of the number of information bits/modulation symbol using 0.5-bit step size. The quantization granularity may be reduced (i.e., to be finer than 0.5-bit) if each segment (and not each transmission channel) is required to support an integer number of information bits. If $K_i \cdot N_i$ is required to be an integer, a larger integer value for K_i allows for a smaller step size for N_i . The quantization granularity may be further reduced if the quantization is allowed to be carried from segment to segment. For example, if one bit needs to be rounded-off in one segment, one bit may be rounded-up in the next segment, if appropriate. The quantization granularity may also be reduced if the quantization is allowed to be carried over multiple time slots.

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To support an OFDM system (especially one operated in the MIMO mode) whereby different SNR may be achieved for the transmission channels, a flexible puncturing scheme may be used in conjunction with a common base encoder (e.g., a rate 1/3 Turbo encoder) to achieve the necessary coding rates. This flexible puncturing scheme may be used to provide the necessary number of tail and parity bits for each segment. For a high coding rate in which more tail and parity bits are punctured than retained, the puncturing may be efficiently achieved by retaining the required number of tail and parity bits as they are generated by the encoder and discarding the others.

As an example, a segment may include 20 16-QAM modulation symbols and has a SNR that supports transmission of 2.75 information bits/modulation symbol. For this segment, 55 information bits (55 = 20x2.75) may be transmitted in 20 modulation symbols. Each 16-QAM modulation symbol is formed with four coded bits, and 80 coded bits are needed for 20 modulation symbols. The 55 information bits may be encoded with a rate 1/3 encoder to generate 122 tail and parity bits and 55 information bits. These 122 tail and parity bits may be punctured to provide the 35 tail and parity bits required for the segment, which in combination with the 55 information bits comprise the 80 coded bits.

Referring back to FIG. 1, puncturer 117 receives the interleaved information and parity bits from channel interleaver 116, punctures (i.e.,

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deletes) some of the tail and parity bits to achieve the desired coding rate(s), and multiplexes the unpunctured information, tail, and parity bits into a sequence of coded bits. The information bits (which are also referred to as systematic bits) may also be punctured along with the tail and parity bits, and this is within the scope of the invention.

FIG. 3C is a diagram of an embodiment of a puncturer 117x, which may be used to provide variable puncturing of coded bits. Puncturer 117x is one implementation of puncturer 117 in FIG. 1. Using a set of counters, puncturer 117x performs puncturing to retain P_i tail and parity bits out of Q_i tail and parity bits generated by the encoder for segment i.

Within puncturer 117x, the interleaved tail and parity bits y_{INT} and z_{INT} from the two constituent encoders of the Turbo encoder are provided to two inputs of a switch 342. Switch 342 provides either the y_{INT} tail and parity bits or the z_{INT} tail and parity bits to line 343, depending on a control signal from a toggle unit 348. Switch 342 ensures that the tail and parity bits from the two constituent encoders are evenly selected by alternating between the two tail and parity bit streams.

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A first counter 352 performs modulo-Q addition and wraps around after its content reaches beyond Q-1. A second counter 354 counts (by one) the Q tail and parity bits. For each segment, both counters 352 and 354 are initially set to zero, switch 342 is in the up position, and the first tail or parity bit y_{INTO} is provided from multiplexer 346 by closing a switch 344 and appropriately controlling the multiplexer. For each subsequent clock cycle, counter 352 is incremented by P and counter 354 is incremented by one. The value of counter 352 is provided to a decision unit 356. If counter 352 experiences a modulo-Q operation (i.e., the content of counter 352 wraps around), the tail or parity bit on line 343 is provided through switch 344 to multiplexer 346, which then provides the tail or parity bit as an output coded bit. Each time a tail or parity bit is provided from multiplexer 346, toggle unit 348 toggles the state of the control signal, and the other tail and parity bit stream is provided to line 343. The process continues until all Q_i tail and parity bits in the segment are exhausted, as indicated by comparison unit 358.

Other puncturing patterns may also be used and are within the scope of the invention. To provide good performance, the number of tail and parity bits to be punctured should be balanced between the two constituent codes (i.e., approximately equal number of y_{INT} and z_{INT} tail and parity bits are selected) and the unpunctured bits should be distributed relatively evenly over the code block for each segment.

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In certain instances, the number of information bits may be less than the capacity of the transmission channels. In such instances, the available and unfilled bit positions may be filled with zero padding, by repeating some of the coded bits, or by some other scheme. The transmit power may also be reduced for some schemes.

Gray Mapping

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In an embodiment, for each modulation scheme (e.g., QPSK, 16-QAM, 64-QAM, and so on) selected for use, the points in the signal constellation for the modulation scheme are defined using Gray mapping. The Gray mapping reduces the number of bit errors for more likely error events, as described in further detail below.

FIG. 5 is a diagram of a signal constellation for 16-QAM and a specific Gray mapping scheme. The signal constellation for 16-QAM includes 16 points, each of which is associated with a specific 4-bit value. For Gray mapping, the 4-bit values are associated with the points in the signal constellation such that the values for adjacent points (in the horizontal or vertical direction) differ by only one bit position. The values for points further way differ by more bit positions (e.g., the values for adjacent points in the diagonal direction differ by two bit positions).

Each group of four coded bits $(b_1 b_2 b_3 b_4)$ is mapped to a specific point in the signal constellation associated with the same value as that of the four coded bits. For example, a value of ("0111") for the four coded bits is mapped to a point 512 in the signal constellation. This point then represents the modulation symbol for the four coded bits. For 16-QAM, each modulation symbol represents a specific one of the 16 points in the signal constellation, with the specific point being determined by the value of the four coded bits. Each modulation symbol can be expressed as a complex number (c + jd) and provided to the next processing element (i.e., MIMO processor 120 in FIG. 1).

At the receiver unit, the modulation symbols are received in the presence of noise and typically do not map to the exact location in the signal constellation. For the above example, the received modulation symbol for the transmitted coded bits ("0111") may not map to point 512 at the receiver unit. The noise may have caused the received modulation symbol to be mapped to another location in the signal constellation. Typically, there is greater likelihood of the received modulation symbol being mapped to a location near the correct location (e.g., near the points for "0101", "0011", "0110", or "1111"). Thus, the more likely error event is a received modulation symbol being

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erroneously mapped to a point adjacent to the correct point. And since adjacent points in the signal constellation have values that differ by only one bit position, the Gray mapping reduces the number of error bits for more likely error events.

FIG. 5 shows a specific Gray mapping scheme for the 16-QAM signal constellation. Other Gray mapping schemes may also be used and are within the scope of the invention. The signal constellations for other modulation schemes (e.g., 8-PSK, 64-QAM, and so on) may also be mapped with similar or other Gray mapping schemes. For some modulation schemes such as 32-QAM and 128-QAM, a partial Gray mapping scheme may be used if a full Gray mapping scheme is not possible. Also, mapping schemes not based on Gray mapping may also be used and are within the scope of the invention.

MIMO Processing

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FIG. 6 is a block diagram of an embodiment of a MIMO processor 120x, which is one implementation of MIMO processor 120 in FIG. 1. The modulation symbols may be transmitted on multiple frequency subchannels and possibly from multiple transmit antennas. When operating in the MIMO mode, the transmission on each frequency subchannel and from each transmit antenna represents non-duplicated data.

Within MIMO processor 120x, a demultiplexer (DEMUX) 610 receives and demultiplexes the modulation symbols into a number of subchannel symbol streams, S_1 through S_L , one subchannel symbol stream for each frequency subchannel used to transmit the symbols. Each subchannel symbol stream is then provided to a respective subchannel MIMO processor 612.

Each subchannel MIMO processor 612 may further demultiplex the received subchannel symbol stream into a number of (up to $N_{\rm T}$) symbol substreams, one symbol sub-stream for each antenna used to transmit the modulation symbols. When the OFDM system is operated in the MIMO mode, each subchannel MIMO processors 612 pre-conditions the (up to) $N_{\rm T}$ modulation symbols in accordance with equation (1) described above to generate pre-conditioned modulation symbols, which are subsequently transmitted. In the MIMO mode, each pre-conditioned modulation symbol for a particular frequency subchannel of a particular transmit antenna represents a linear combination of (weighted) modulation symbols for up to $N_{\rm T}$ transmit antennas. Each of the (up to) $N_{\rm T}$ modulation symbols used to generate each pre-conditioned modulation symbol may be associated with a different signal constellation.

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For each time slot, (up to) N_T pre-conditioned modulation symbols may be generated by each subchannel MIMO processor 612 and provided to (up to) N_T symbol combiners 616a through 616t. For example, subchannel MIMO processor 614a assigned to frequency subchannel 1 may provide up to N_T preconditioned modulation symbols for frequency subchannel 1 of antennas 1 through N_T . Similarly, subchannel MIMO processor 612l assigned to frequency subchannel L may provide up to N_T symbols for frequency subchannel L of antennas 1 through N_T . Each combiner 616 receives the pre-conditioned modulation symbols for the L frequency subchannels, combines the symbols for each time slot into a modulation symbol vector, V, and provides the modulation symbol vector to the next processing stage (i.e., modulator 122).

MIMO processor 120x thus receives and processes the modulation symbols to provide $N_{\rm T}$ modulation symbol vectors, $V_{\rm 1}$ through $V_{\rm T}$, one modulation symbol vector for each transmit antenna. The collection of L preconditioned modulation symbols for each time slot of each antenna form a modulation symbol vector V of dimensionality L. Each element of the modulation symbol vector V is associated with a specific frequency subchannel having a unique subcarrier on which the modulation symbol is conveyed. The collection of the L modulation symbols are all orthogonal to one another. If not operating in a "pure" MIMO mode, some of the modulation symbol vectors may have duplicate information on specific frequency subchannels for different transmit antennas.

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Subchannel MIMO processor 612 may be designed to provide the necessary processing to implement full channel state information (full-CSI) or partial-CSI processing for the MIMO mode: Full CSI includes sufficient characterization of the propagation path (i.e., amplitude and phase) between all pairs of transmit and receive antennas for each frequency subchannel. Partial CSI may include, for example, the SNR of the spatial subchannels. The CSI processing may be performed based on the available CSI information and on the selected frequency subchannels, transmit antennas, and so on. The CSI processing may also be enabled and disabled selectively and dynamically. For example, the CSI processing may be enabled for a particular data transmission and disabled for some other data transmissions. The CSI processing may be enabled under certain conditions, for example, when the communication link has adequate SNR. Full-CSI and partial-CSI processing is described in further detail in the aforementioned U.S Patent Application Serial No. 09/532,491.

FIG. 6 also shows an embodiment of modulator 122. The modulation symbol vectors $V_{\scriptscriptstyle I}$ through $V_{\scriptscriptstyle T}$ from MIMO processor 120x are provided to

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modulators 114a through 114t, respectively. In the embodiment shown in FIG. 6, each modulator 114 includes an IFFT 620, cycle prefix generator 622, and an upconverter 624.

IFFT 620 converts each received modulation symbol vector into its time-domain representation (which is referred to as an OFDM symbol) using the inverse fast Fourier transform (IFFT). IFFT 620 can be designed to perform the IFFT on any number of frequency subchannels (e.g., 8, 16, 32, and so on). In an embodiment, for each modulation symbol vector converted to an OFDM symbol, cycle prefix generator 622 repeats a portion of the time-domain representation of the OFDM symbol to form a transmission symbol for the specific antenna. The cyclic prefix insures that the transmission symbol retains its orthogonal properties in the presence of multipath delay spread, thereby improving performance against deleterious path effects. The implementation of IFFT 620 and cycle prefix generator 622 is known in the art and not described in detail herein.

The time-domain representations from each cycle prefix generator 622 (i.e., the "transmission" symbols for each antenna) are then processed by upconverter 624, converted into an analog signal, modulated to a RF frequency, and conditioned (e.g., amplified and filtered) to generate an RF modulated signal, which is then transmitted from the respective antenna 124.

OFDM modulation is described in further detail in a paper entitled "Multicarrier Modulation for Data Transmission: An Idea Whose Time Has Come," by John A.C. Bingham, IEEE Communications Magazine, May 1990, which is incorporated herein by reference.

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For an OFDM system not operated in the MIMO mode, MIMO processor 120 may be removed or disabled and the modulation symbols may be grouped into the modulation symbol vector V without any pre-conditioning. This vector is then provided to modulator 122. And for an OFDM system operated with transmit diversity (and not in the MIMO mode), demultiplexer 614 may be removed or disabled and the (same) pre-conditioned modulation symbols are provided to (up to) N_T combiners.

As shown in FIG. 2, a number of different transmissions (e.g., voice, signaling, data, pilot, and so on) may be transmitted by the system. Each of these transmissions may require different processing.

FIG. 7 is a block diagram of an embodiment of a system 110y capable of providing different processing for different transmissions. The aggregate input data, which includes all information bits to be transmitted by system 110y, is provided to a demultiplexer 710. Demultiplexer 710 demultiplexes the input

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data into a number of (K) channel data streams, B_1 through B_k . Each channel data stream may correspond to, for example, a signaling channel, a broadcast channel, a voice call, or a traffic data transmission. Each channel data stream is provided to a respective encoder/channel interleaver/puncturer/symbol mapping element 712 that encodes the data using a particular encoding scheme selected for that channel data stream, interleaves the encoded data based on a particular interleaving scheme, punctures the interleaved code bits, and maps the interleaved data into modulation symbols for the one or more transmission channels used for transmitting that channel data stream.

The encoding can be performed on a per channel basis (i.e., on each channel data stream, as shown in FIG. 7). However, the encoding may also be performed on the aggregate input data (as shown in FIG. 1), on a number of channel data streams, on a portion of a channel data stream, across a set of frequency subchannels, across a set of spatial subchannels, across a set of frequency subchannels and spatial subchannels, across each frequency subchannel, on each modulation symbol, or on some other unit of time, space, and frequency.

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The modulation symbol stream from each encoder/channel interleaver/puncturer/symbol mapping element 712 may be transmitted on one or more frequency subchannels and via one or more spatial subchannels of each frequency subchannel. A MIMO processor 120y receives the modulation symbol streams from elements 712. Depending on the mode to be used for each modulation symbol stream, MIMO processor 120y may demultiplex the modulation symbol stream into a number of subchannel symbol streams. In the embodiment shown in FIG. 7, modulation symbol stream $S_{\rm k}$ is transmitted on one frequency subchannel and modulation symbol stream for each frequency subchannels. The modulation stream for each frequency subchannel is processed by a respective subchannel MIMO processor, demultiplexed, and combined in similar manner as that described in FIG. 6 to form a modulation symbol vector for each transmit antenna.

In general, the transmitter unit codes and modulates data for each transmission channel based on information descriptive of the channel's transmission capability. This information is typically in the form of partial-CSI or full-CSI described above. The partial or full-CSI for the transmission channels to be used for a data transmission is typically determined at the receiver unit and reported back to the transmitter unit, which then uses the information to code and modulate data accordingly. The techniques described herein are applicable for multiple parallel transmission channels supported by

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MIMO, OFDM, or any other communication scheme (e.g., a CDMA scheme) capable of supporting multiple parallel transmission channels.

Demodulation and Decoding

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FIG. 8 is a block diagram of an embodiment of a decoding portion of system 150. For this embodiment, a Turbo encoder is used to encode the data prior to transmission. A Turbo decoder is correspondingly used to decode the received modulation symbols.

As shown in FIG. 8, the received modulation symbols are provided to a bit log-likelihood ratio (LLR) calculation unit 158x, which calculates the LLRs of the bits that make up each modulation symbol. Since a Turbo decoder operates on LLRs (as oppose to bits), bit LLR calculation unit 158x provides an LLR for each received coded bit. The LLR for each received coded bit is the logarithm of the probability that the received coded bit is a zero divided by the probability that the received coded bit is a one.

As described above, M coded bits $(b_1, b_2, \dots b_M)$ are grouped to form a single non-binary symbol S, which is then mapped to a modulation symbol T(S) (i.e., modulated to a high-order signal constellation). The modulation symbol is processed, transmitted, received, and further processed to provide a received modulation symbol R(S). The LLR of coded bit b_m in the received modulation symbol can be computed as:

$$LLR(b_m) = \log \left(\frac{P(b_m = 0)}{P(b_m = 1)} \right)$$

$$= \log \left(P(R(S) \mid b_m = 0) \right) - \log \left(P(R(S) \mid b_m = 1) \right)$$

$$= \log \left(\sum_{T(S):b_m = 0} P(R(S) \mid T(S)) \right) - \log \left(\sum_{T(S):b_m = 1} P(R(S) \mid T(S)) \right)$$
Eq (2)

where $P(R(S) \mid b_m = 0)$ is the probability of bit b_m being a zero based on the received symbol R(S). Approximations may also be used in computing the LLRs.

De-puncturer 159 then inserts "erasures" for code bits that have been deleted (i.e., punctured) at the transmitter. The erasures typically have a value of zero ("0"), which is indicative of the punctured bit being equally likely to be a zero or a one.

From equation (2), it can be noted that the LLRs for the received coded bits within a modulation symbol tend to be correlated. This correlation can be

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broken up by interleaving the coded bits prior to modulation. As shown in FIG. 1, the channel interleaving advantageously performs the decorrelation of the coded bits in each modulation symbol.

The coded bit LLRs are provided to a channel deinterleaver 160 and deinterleaved in a manner complementary to the channel interleaving performed at the transmitter. The channel deinterleaved LLRs corresponding to the received information, tail, and parity bits are then provided to a Turbo decoder 162x.

Turbo decoder 162x includes summers 810a and 810b, decoders 812a and 812b, a code interleaver 814, a code deinterleaver 816, and a detector 818. In an embodiment, each decoder 812 is implemented as a soft-input/soft-output (SISO) maximum a posterior (MAP) decoder.

Summer 810a receives and sums the LLRs of the received information bits, LLR(x'), and the extrinsic information from deinterleaver 816 (which is set to zeros on the first iteration), and provides refined LLRs. The refined LLRs are associated with greater confidence in the detected values of the received information bits.

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Decoder 812a receives the refined LLRs from summer 810a and the LLRs of the received tail and parity bits from the first constituent encoder, LLR(y'), and decodes the received LLRs to generate extrinsic information indicative of corrections in the probability values for the received information bits. The extrinsic information from decoder 812a are summed with the received information bit LLRs by summer 810b, and the refined LLRs are stored to code interleaver 814. Code interleaver 814 implements the same code interleaving used at the Turbo encoder (e.g., the same as code interleaver 314 in FIG. 3B).

Decoder 812b receives the interleaved LLRs from interleaver 814 and the LLRs of the received tail and parity bits from the second constituent encoder, LLR(z'), and decodes the received LLRs to generate extrinsic information indicative of further corrections in the probability values for the received information bits. The extrinsic information from decoder 812b is stored to code deinterleaver 816, which implements a deinterleaving scheme complementary to the interleaving scheme used for interleaver 814.

The decoding of the received coded bit LLRs is iterated a number of times. With each iteration, greater confidence is gained for the refined LLRs. After all the decoding iterations have been completed, the final refined LLRs are provided to detector 818, which provides values for the received information bits based on the LLRs.

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Other types of decoder may also be used beside the SISO MAP decoder such as one that implements the soft output Viterbi algorithm (SOVA). The design of the decoder is typically dependent on the particular Turbo coding scheme used at the transmitter.

Turbo decoding is described in greater detail by Steven S. Pietrobon in a paper entitled "Implementation and Performance of a Turbo/Map Decoder," International Journal of Satellite Communications, Vol. 16, 1998, pp. 23-46, which is incorporated herein by reference.

10 Modulation Scheme and Coding Rate

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The achieved SNR of each transmission channel supports a particular number of information bits per modulation symbol (i.e., a particular information bit rate) for a desired level of performance (e.g., 1% FER). This information bit rate may be supported by a number of different modulation schemes. For example, a bit rate of 1.5 information bits/modulation symbol may be supported by QPSK, 8-PSK, 16-QAM, or any higher order modulation scheme. Each modulation scheme is able to transmit a particular number of coded bits per modulation symbol.

Depending on the selected modulation scheme, a corresponding coding rate is selected such that the required number of coded bits is provided for the number of information bits for each modulation symbol. For the above example, QPSK, 8-PSK, and 16-QAM are respectively able to transmit 2, 3, and 4 coded bits per modulation symbol. For an information bit rate of 1.5 information bits/modulation symbol, coding rates of 3/4, 1/2, and 3/8 are used to generate the required number of coded bits for QPSK, 8-PSK, and 16-QAM, respectively. Thus, different combinations of modulation scheme and coding rate may be used to support a particular information bit rate.

In certain embodiments of the invention, a "weak" binary code (i.e., a high coding rate) is used in conjunction with a low-order modulation scheme for the supported bit rate. Through a series of simulation, it is observed that a lower order modulation scheme in combination with a weaker code may offer better performance than a higher order modulation scheme with a stronger code. This result may be explained as follows. The LLR decoding metrics of binary Turbo codes in an AWGN channel is near optimal for the Turbo decoding algorithm. However, for the Gray mapped high-order modulation scheme, the optimal LLR metrics are generated for each received modulation symbol and not each received bit. The symbol LLR metrics are then broken to yield bit LLR metrics for the binary code decoder. Some information is lost

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during the break-up process, and using the bit decoding metrics may result in non-optimal performance. The lower order modulation schemes correspond to fewer bits per symbol, which may experience less of the break-up loss and therefore provide better performance than the higher order modulation scheme counterparts.

In accordance with an aspect of the invention, in order to achieve certain spectrum efficiency, a code with a coding rate of between, and inclusive of, n/(n+1) to n/(n+2) is used with an appropriate modulation scheme, where n is the number of information bits per modulation symbol. This coding rate may be easily achieved with a fixed code (e.g., the rate 1/3 Turbo code described above) in combination with a variable puncturing scheme. To achieve a high coding rate, the tail and parity bits may be heavily punctured and the unpunctured tail and parity bits may be evenly distributed over the information bits.

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Framing

For many communication systems, it is convenient to define data packets (i.e., logical frames) with fixed sizes. For example, a system may define three different packets having sizes of 1024, 2048, and 4096 bits. These defined data packets simplify some of the processing at both the transmitter and receiver.

For an OFDM system, a physical frame may be defined to include (1) an integer number of OFDM symbols, (2) a particular number of modulation symbols on one or more transmission channels, (3) or some other units. As described above, because of the time-variant nature of the communication link, the SNR of the transmission channels may vary over time. Consequently, the number of information bits which may be transmitted on each time slot for each transmission channel will likely vary over time, and the number of information bits in each physical frame will also likely vary over time.

In one embodiment, a logical frame is defined such that it is independent of the OFDM symbols. In this embodiment, the information bits for each logical frame are encoded/punctured, and the coded bits for the logical frame are grouped and mapped to modulation symbols. In one simple implementation, the transmission channels are sequentially numbered. The coded bits are then used to form as many modulation symbols as needed, in the sequential order of the transmission channels. A logical frame (i.e., a data packet) may be defined to start and end at modulation symbol boundaries. In this implementation, the logical frame may span more than one OFDM symbol

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and may further cross OFDM symbol boundaries. Moreover, each OFDM symbol may include coded bits from multiple data packets.

In another embodiment, a logical frame is defined based on a physical unit. For example, a logical frame may be defined to include (1) a number of modulation symbols on one or more transmission channels, (2) one or more OFDM symbols, or (3) a number of modulation symbols defined in some other manner.

The use of punctured binary Turbo code and Gray mapping (BTC-GM) for high-order modulation provides numerous advantages. The BTC-GM scheme is simpler to implement than the more optimal but more complicated Turbo trellis coded modulation (TTCM) scheme, yet can achieve performance close to that of TTCM. The BTC-GM scheme also provides a high degree of flexibility because of the ease of implementing different coding rate by simply adjusting the variable puncturing. The BTC-GM scheme also provides robust performance under different puncturing parameters. Also, currently available binary Turbo decoders may be used, which may simply the implementation of the receiver. However, in certain embodiments, other coding schemes may also be used and are within the scope of the invention.

The foregoing description of the preferred embodiments is provided to enable any person skilled in the art to make or use the present invention. Various modifications to these embodiments will be readily apparent to those skilled in the art, and the generic principles defined herein may be applied to other embodiments without the use of the inventive faculty. Thus, the present invention is not intended to be limited to the embodiments shown herein but is to be accorded the widest scope consistent with the principles and novel features disclosed herein.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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CLAIMS

In a wireless communication system, a method for preparing data for
 transmission on a plurality of transmission channels, wherein each transmission channel is operative to transmit a respective sequence of
 modulation symbols, the method comprising:

determining a number of information bits per modulation symbol supported by each transmission channel;

identifying a modulation scheme for each transmission channel such that the determined number of information bits per modulation symbol is supported;

determining a coding rate for each transmission channel based at least on the determined number of information bits per modulation symbol and the identified modulation scheme for the transmission channel, wherein at least two transmission channels are associated with different coding rates;

encoding a plurality of information bits in accordance with a particular encoding scheme to provide a plurality of coded bits;

puncturing the plurality of coded bits in accordance with a particular puncturing scheme to provide a number of unpunctured coded bits for the plurality of transmission channels; and

adjusting the puncturing to achieve the different coding rates for the at 20 least two transmission channels.

- 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the wireless communication system is a multiple-input multiple-output (MIMO) system with a plurality of transmit antennas and a plurality of receive antennas.
- 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the wireless communication system is an orthogonal frequency division modulation (OFDM) communication system.
- 4. The method of claim 3, wherein the OFDM communication system is operated as a multiple-input multiple-output (MIMO) system with a plurality of transmit antennas and a plurality of receive antennas.
- 5. The method of claim 4, wherein the OFDM system is operative to transmit data on a plurality of frequency subchannels, and wherein each transmission channel corresponds to a spatial subchannel of a frequency subchannel in the OFDM system.

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- 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the puncturing is based on 2 transmission capabilities of the plurality of transmission channels.
- 7. The method of claim 6, wherein the transmission capabilities are determined from channel state information (CSI) derived for the plurality of transmission channels.
- 8. The method of claim 7, wherein the CSI includes signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) information for the plurality of transmission channels.
- 9. The method of claim 7, wherein the CSI includes information related to transmission characteristics from transmit antennas to the receive antennas.
- 10. The method of claim 7, wherein the CSI includes eigenmode 2 information related to transmission characteristics from transmit antennas to the receive antennas.
 - 11. The method of claim 6, further comprising:
- 2 grouping transmission channels having similar transmission capabilities to segments, and
- 4 wherein the puncturing is performed for each segment.
 - 12. The method of claim 11, further comprising:
- 2 assigning a group of coded bits to each segment, and wherein the puncturing is performed on the group of coded bits 4 assigned to each segment.
- 13. The method of claim 11, wherein each segment includes transmission channels having SNR within a particular SNR range.
- 14. The method of claim 1, wherein the encoding is achieved via a Turbo code.
- 15. The method of claim 14, wherein the encoding provides a plurality of tail and parity bits for the plurality of information bits, and wherein the puncturing is performed on the plurality of tail and parity bits.

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- 16. The method of claim 14, wherein the puncturing is performed such that unpunctured tail and parity bits are approximately evenly distributed over the plurality of information bits.
- 17. The method of claim 14, wherein the Turbo code includes two
 2 constituent codes operative to provide two streams of tail and parity bits, and wherein the puncturing is performed such that approximately equal number of
 4 tail and parity bits are deleted from the two streams of tail and parity bits.
- 18. The method of claim 1, wherein the coding rate for each 2 transmission channel is selected to be between, and inclusive of, n/(n+1) and n/(n+2), where n is the number of information bits per modulation symbol 4 supported by the transmission channel.
- 19. The method of claim 1, wherein the coding rate for each 2 transmission channel is 1/2 or higher.
- 20. The method of claim 1, wherein the encoding is achieved via a 2 convolutional code.
- 21. The method of claim 1, wherein the encoding is achieved via a block 2 code.
 - 22. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
- 2 inserting padding bits to fill available but unfilled bit positions in the plurality of transmission channels.
 - 23. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
- 2 repeating at least some of the coded bits to fill available but unfilled bit positions in the plurality of transmission channels.
 - 24. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
- 2 interleaving the plurality of coded bits.
- 25. The method of claim 24, wherein the puncturing is performed on interleaved coded bits.

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26. The method of claim 24, wherein the encoding is achieved via a
Turbo code comprised of two constituent codes, and wherein the plurality of information bits, a plurality of tail and parity bits from a first constituent code,

4 and a plurality of tail and parity bits from a second constituent code are separately interleaved.

27. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

forming non-binary symbols for the plurality of transmission channels, wherein each non-binary symbol includes a group of unpunctured coded bits;

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mapping each non-binary symbol to a respective modulation symbol.

- 28. The method of claim 27, further comprising:
- 2 interleaving the plurality of coded bits, and wherein the non-binary symbols are formed from the interleaved coded 4 bits.
- 29. The method of claim 27, wherein the modulation scheme for each
 transmission channel is associated with a respective signal constellation having a plurality of points, and wherein each modulation symbol is representative of
 a particular point in the signal constellation for the modulation scheme.
- 30. The method of claim 29, wherein the plurality of points in each signal constellation are assigned with values based on a particular Gray mapping scheme.
- 31. The method of claim 30, wherein the values are assigned to the plurality of points in each signal constellation such that values for adjacent points in the signal constellation differ by one bit position.

32. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

adapting to changes in the plurality of transmission channels by repeating the determining the number of information bits per modulation symbol, the identifying the modulation scheme, and the determining the coding rate. 8

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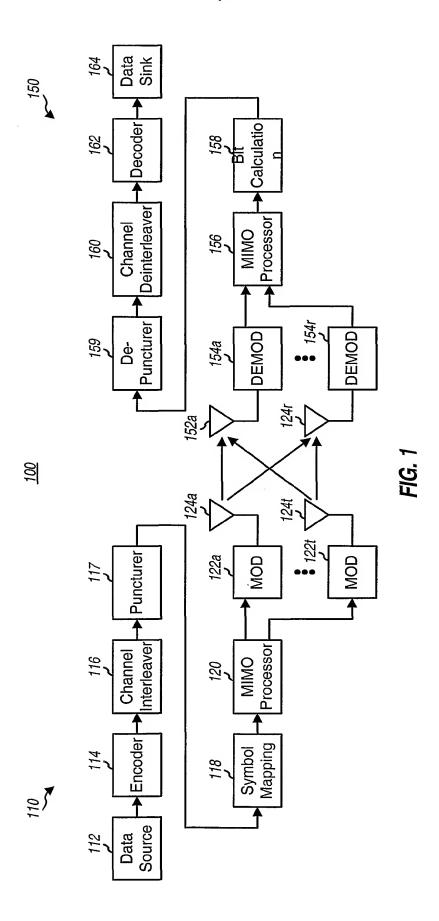
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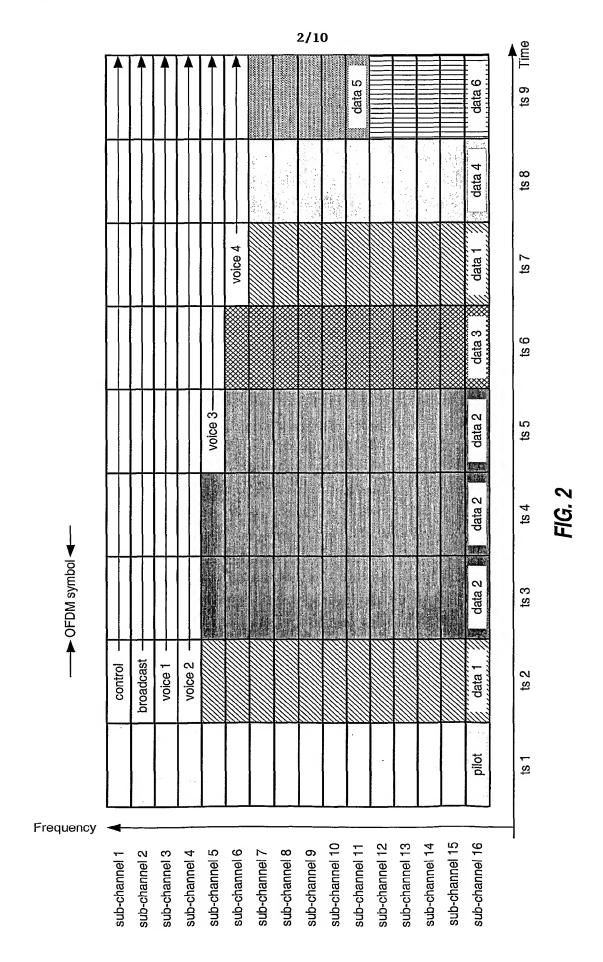
- 33. The method of claim 1, wherein the modulation scheme for each transmission channel supports transmission of two or more coded bits per modulation symbol.
- 34. The method of claim 1, wherein the transmission on the plurality of transmission channels are intended for a single recipient receiving device.
- 35. In an orthogonal frequency division modulation (OFDM) communication system, a method for preparing data for transmission on a plurality of transmission channels, wherein each transmission channel is operative to transmit a respective sequence of modulation symbols, the method comprising:
- determining a number of information bits per modulation symbol supported by each transmission channel;
 - identifying a modulation scheme for each transmission channel such that the determined number of information bits per modulation symbol is supported;
- determining a coding rate for each transmission channel based at least on the determined number of information bits per modulation symbol and the identified modulation scheme for the transmission channel, wherein at least two transmission channels are associated with different coding rates;
- encoding a plurality of information bits in accordance with a particular Turbo code to provide a plurality of tail and parity bits;
 - interleaving the plurality of information and tail and parity bits in accordance with a particular interleaving scheme;
- puncturing the plurality of interleaved bits in accordance with a 20 particular puncturing scheme to provide a number of unpunctured coded bits for the plurality of transmission channels, wherein the puncturing is adjusted to 22 achieve the different coding rates for the at least two transmission channels;
- forming non-binary symbols for the plurality of transmission channels, 24 wherein each non-binary symbol includes a group of unpunctured coded bits; and
- 26 mapping each non-binary symbol to a respective modulation symbol.
- 36. A wireless communication system operative to transmit data on a
 2 plurality of transmission channels, wherein each transmission channel is used to transmit a respective sequence of modulation symbols, the system
 4 comprising:

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an encoder configured to encode a plurality of information bits in accordance with a particular encoding scheme to provide a plurality of coded bits, and to puncture the plurality of coded bits in accordance with a particular puncturing scheme to provide a number of unpunctured coded bits for the plurality of transmission channels, wherein each transmission channel is 10 capable of transmitting a particular number of information bits per modulation symbol via a particular modulation scheme selected for the transmission channel, wherein each transmission channel is further associated with a 12 particular coding rate based at least on the number of information bits per modulation symbol supported by the transmission channel and its modulation scheme, wherein at least two transmission channels are associated with different coding rates, and wherein the encoder is further configured to adjust 16 the puncturing to achieve the different coding rates for the at least two transmission channels. 18

- 37. The system of claim 36, further comprising:
- 2 a channel interleaver coupled to the encoder and configured to interleave the plurality of coded bits, and
- 4 wherein the encoder is configured to puncture the interleaved bits.
 - 38. The system of claim 37, further comprising:
- a symbol mapping element coupled to the channel interleaver and configured to form non-binary symbols for the plurality of transmission channels, and to map each non-binary symbol to a respective modulation symbol, wherein each non-binary symbol includes a group of unpunctured coded bits.
 - 39. The system of claim 38, further comprising:
- a signal processor coupled to the symbol mapping element and configured to pre-condition the modulation symbols for the plurality of transmission channels to implement a multiple-input multiple-output (MIMO) transmission.





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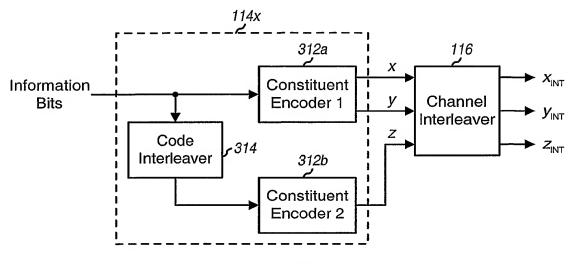


FIG. 3A

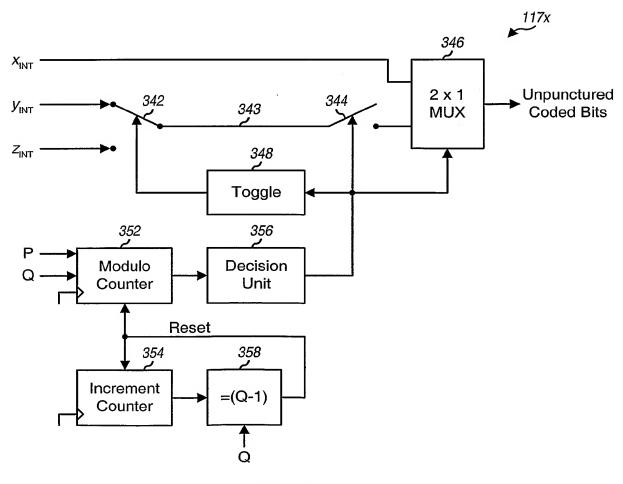
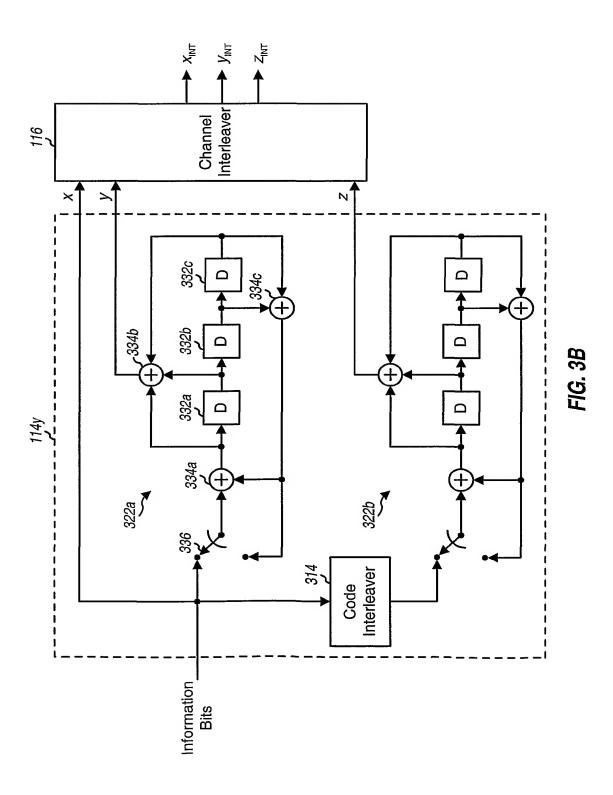


FIG. 3C



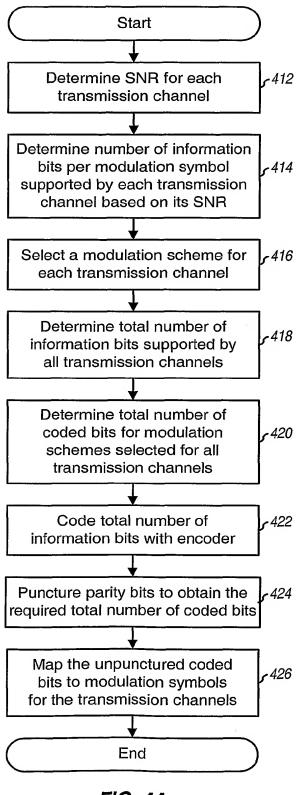


FIG. 4A

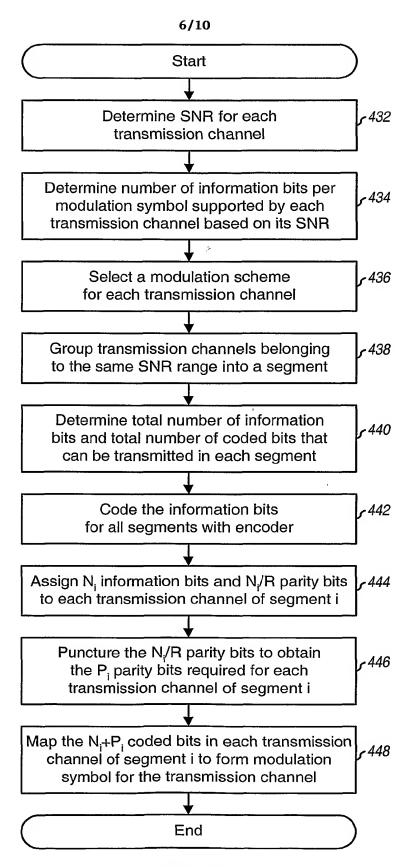


FIG. 4B

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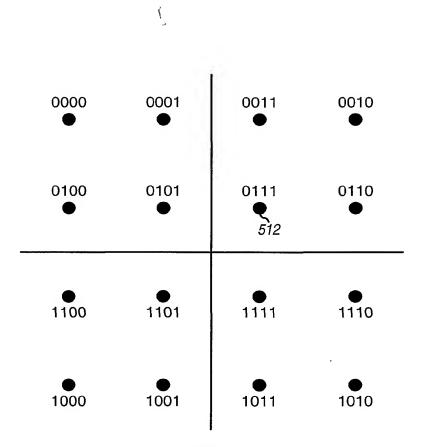
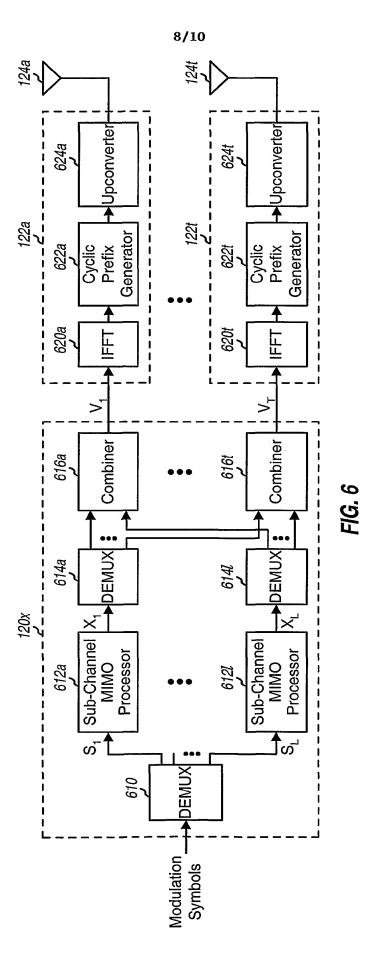
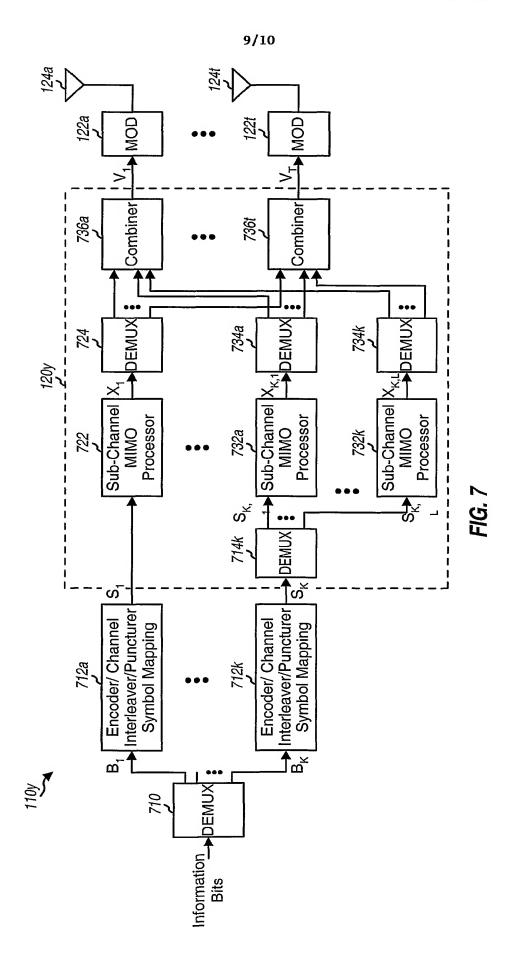
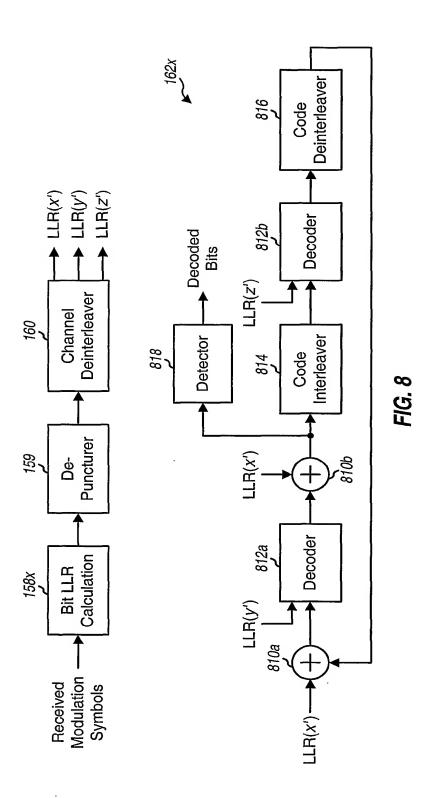


FIG. 5







mal Application No

PCT/US 02/02143 A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 H04L1/00 H04L H04L27/26 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC **B. FIELDS SEARCHED** Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 H04L Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal, COMPENDEX, INSPEC C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Category ° Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. US 5 197 061 A (LE FLOCH BERNARD ET AL) X 1,3,6, 23 March 1993 (1993-03-23) 35,36 2,4,5, Α 7 - 34, 37 - 39column 2, line 67 -column 3, line 10 column 2, line 6/ -column 3, column 3, line 15 - line 18 column 4, line 29 - line 40 column 4, line 59 - line 62 column 5, line 18 - line 21 column 5, line 54 - line 68 column 6, line 40 - line 47 column 9, line 51 - line 59 -/--Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex. хI Special categories of cited documents: "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier document but published on or after the international "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "&" document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the international search report 3 July 2002 23/07/2002 Name and mailing address of the ISA Authorized officer European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL – 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31–70) 340–2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,

Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

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Schiffer, A

It onal Application No
PCT/US 02/02143

MATSUOKA H ET AL: "Adaptive modulation system with variable coding rate concatenated code for high quality multi-media communication systems" VEHICULAR TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE, 1996. MOBILE TECHNOLOGY FOR THE HUMAN RACE., IEEE 46TH ATLANTA, GA, USA 28 APRIL-1 MAY 1996, NEW YORK, NY, USA, IEEE, US, 28 April 1996 (1996-04-28), pages 487-491, XP010162435 ISBN: 0-7803-3157-5 abstract page 487, right-hand column, paragraph 1 page 487, right-hand column, paragraph 3 page 488, left-hand column, paragraph 1	2-5, 9-29, 31-34, 37-39
MATSUOKA H ET AL: "Adaptive modulation system with variable coding rate concatenated code for high quality multi-media communication systems" VEHICULAR TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE, 1996. MOBILE TECHNOLOGY FOR THE HUMAN RACE., IEEE 46TH ATLANTA, GA, USA 28 APRIL-1 MAY 1996, NEW YORK, NY, USA, IEEE, US, 28 April 1996 (1996-04-28), pages 487-491, XP010162435 ISBN: 0-7803-3157-5	1,6-8, 30,35,36 2-5, 9-29, 31-34,
system with variable coding rate concatenated code for high quality multi-media communication systems" VEHICULAR TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE, 1996. MOBILE TECHNOLOGY FOR THE HUMAN RACE., IEEE 46TH ATLANTA, GA, USA 28 APRIL-1 MAY 1996, NEW YORK, NY, USA, IEEE, US, 28 April 1996 (1996-04-28), pages 487-491, XP010162435 ISBN: 0-7803-3157-5 abstract page 487, right-hand column, paragraph 1 page 487, right-hand column, paragraph 3 page 488, left-hand column, paragraph 1	2-5, 9-29, 31-34,
abstract page 487, right-hand column, paragraph 1 page 487, right-hand column, paragraph 3 page 488, left-hand column, paragraph 1	9-29, 31-34,
page 487, right-hand column, paragraph 1 page 487, right-hand column, paragraph 3 page 488, left-hand column, paragraph 1	
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